

MORE THAN **210**
PRODUCTS
FEATURED
IN THIS
ISSUE!

FirstGlimpse

FirstGlimpseMag.com

Take Your Photography Up A Notch

The EOS Rebel XSi, Canon's latest D-SLR camera, will deliver stunning photo results with easy-to-use features such as in-lens image stabilization and live view. Find out more on page 6!



FEATURED ARTICLE:
Digital Camera Extravaganza p. 26

April 2008 • \$3.50 U.S.



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top Type? p. 48

WIRELESS

52 Products!

The Best
Gaming Console
For You p. 69

Print Photos Scan Documents Download Photos & Videos Transfer Files . . . **WIRELESSLY!**

Free yourself from USB cables and allow your PC to wirelessly communicate with USB-connected peripherals with IOGEAR's USB-IF certified Wireless USB Hub solution.

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Here's How It Works

The Wireless Hub contains four USB 2.0 ports enabling wireless connectivity to PC peripheral devices. Reduce cable clutter and let notebook users roam up to 30 feet away from the paired USB adapter included in the kit. With Certified Wireless USB technology, file transfers are made at radio speeds of up to 480Mbps. Since all components are connected centrally at the Hub, cables and excess office wiring will be significantly reduced.



On Our Cover: Featured on our cover this month is Canon's EOS Rebel XSi D-SLR camera (\$899.99; www.usa.canon.com).

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Canon EOS Rebel XSi

A Feature-Rich, Entry-Level D-SLR

Open

There's always something new and interesting happening in the world of consumer electronics. You'll hear about it all in *First Glimpse's* Open section.

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Home Theater

Everyone wants a sleek, stylish HDTV to accent his or her home, but many folks just don't know where to start when it comes to actually buying one. Whether you're looking for reliable HDTV shopping advice or must-have accessories, check out Home Theater for quick tips on making your hi-def experience the best it can be.

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Charts
Technology; LCD;
Plasma; Rear-projection

Lifestyle Close-Up: Digital Camera Extravaganza

Digital cameras help us document the special moments in our lives, but capturing and making the best of those memories shouldn't stop short of the camera you have in hand. In our Digital Camera Extravaganza section, we'll open the door to everything you need to know about today's camera consumer world. Get to know how to create, store,

and share photos and video; the importance of digital imaging accessories; and the hottest compact and D-SLR cameras.

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Digital Camera Extravaganza

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Digital Compact
Cameras; D-SLRs;
Digital Camcorders

Computers

Whether you love 'em or hate 'em, almost everyone uses a computer some time during his or her day, and even if you don't, chances are your spouse or kids do. In this section, you can familiarize yourself even more with this ubiquitous CE device, and we'll also lighten things up a bit with monthly comparisons of the hottest notebook and desktop computers.

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Bundles

Wireless

We're willing to bet that you can't part with your cell phone or iPod—or both! In this section, we'll tell you everything

you need to know about GPS devices, and we also cover MP3 players and the cool accessories that go with them. If you love the feeling of freedom you get with no wires or cords, this section is for you.

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CE Lite

Most CE devices are all about fun. Check out each month's Exit page for cool gift ideas for loved ones—and for yourself.

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Editor's Note

Whether you're thumbing through the pages of *First Glimpse* for the first time or you've been familiar with our magazine for quite some time, I hope you take note of our new product profile sections located within the Home Theater, Digital Imaging, Computers, and Wireless domains. Every month, these sections will alert you to the shiniest toys you should get your hands on and give you an overall product overview, as well as quick snippets on who that product is perfect for and the outstanding benefits of that product. In a nutshell, these product profile pages will tell you what you need to know about a single product on one page, all without reading a bunch of numbers or acronyms that could make your head spin.

As for this month's feature package, we're hitting on everything you need to know in the world of digital cameras and camcorders. This issue will help you select the camera that's right for you, no matter if you're a beginning photog looking for the perfect digital compact or a seasoned pro who craves the best D-SLR. We also cover digital camera necessities every photographer should consider and provide explanations as to why these accessories are worth the extra cost and can help improve your photos or video.



Ashley Kumpula

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Correction: In the March and February issues of *First Glimpse*, we listed the HP Pavilion dv9730nr in our notebook computer chart with an MSRP of \$699. The correct MSRP is \$1,399.99. We regret this error.



The Latest Best Buy Arrivals

Look For These New Products

Keep an eye out for these products hitting Best Buy shelves for the first time. Some of the products listed below are showcased in this month's one-page product profiles, so be sure to take a look at the listed page numbers for full product information.

Home Theater

Panasonic TH-50PX80U
Plasma HDTV

Digital Imaging

Canon DC320 HD Camcorder

Canon PowerShot SD1100 IS
Digital ELPH
■ See page 37

Canon VIXIA HV30 HD
Camcorder
■ See page 41

Casio EXILIM EX-Z80

Casio EXILIM EX-S10
■ See page 40

Fuji FinePix Z20fd

JVC GZ-MG330H Everio G
Series Hard Disk Camcorder
■ See page 42

Kodak EasyShare M763
■ See page 38

Kodak ESP3 All-In-One Printer
■ See page 43

Nikon Coolpix S210

Nikon D60 Digital SLR

Olympus Stylus 850 SW

Panasonic DMC-FS5

Panasonic HDC-HS9 HD
Camcorder

Panasonic HDC-SD9 HD
Camcorder

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-
T300

Sony DCR-SR220 Handycam
Camcorder

Sony DSLR-A200

Sony HDR-SR10 HD
Handycam Camcorder

Sony HDR-SR11 HD
Handycam Camcorder

Sony HDR-UX10 HD DVD
Handycam Camcorder

Computers

Netgear HD/Gaming 5 GHz
Wireless-N Networking Kit

Netgear RangeMax Dual Band
Wireless-N Router
■ See page 63

Netgear RangeMax Dual Band
Wireless-N USB Adapter

Netgear RangeMax Wireless-N
Gigabit Router

Pinnacle Video Transfer
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Pinnacle PCTV HD Pro Stick
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Wireless

Garmin nüvi 260w
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Garmin nüvi 780
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Garmin nüvi 5000

Sony Walkman NWZ-A728

Products Coming Soon



Digital Imaging

Kodak EasyShare C813 Zoom
Digital Camera

Kodak EasyShare M893 IS
Digital Camera

Kodak EasyShare M1033
Digital Camera

Kodak EasyShare V1273
Digital Camera

Kodak EasyShare Z1012 IS
Zoom Digital Camera

ce news

COMPILED BY JENNIE SCHLUETER

Logitech's New Surround-Sound System

As the lines between TV and PC blur, more people are using their PCs to find, store, and enjoy content such as movies and music. But most users agree that it's hard to duplicate that theater experience while sitting in front of their PCs.

The Logitech Z-Cinema Advanced Surround Sound System (\$299.99; www.logitech.com) is designed with those users in mind. The Z-Cinema, which features SRS TruSurround HD, makes it easy for users to enjoy the PC as their primary source of entertainment by delivering a surround-sound experience without rear speakers. A single USB cable makes setup easy and allows the system to bypass the PC soundcard.



Sony Adds Smile Shutter Mode To More Cameras

A new colorful line of W-series Cyber-shot cameras (www.sony.style.com) will feature Sony's in-camera technology, which makes it easier to capture just the right photo at the right minute.

Sony's Face Detection technology can detect up to eight faces in a photo and adjust settings such as flash, color, focus, and exposure to make every subject look as good as possible. The Smile Shutter Mode lets you adjust settings so the camera will shoot automatically when the photo subjects are smiling. The W-series includes the reasonably priced DSC-W120 (\$199.99), which should be on store shelves soon.



JVC Adds A Touch Of Color

The new Everio G Series camcorders from JVC

(www.jvc.com) are slim, portable, and colorful. Users can choose the Everio that best suits their personal style: The GZ-MG730 (black; \$799.99), GZ-M335 (silver; \$499.99), and GZ-M330 (blue, red, or silver; \$449.99) feature a 30GB hard drive, while the GZ-MG365 (black; \$599.99) and GZ-MG360 (black; \$549.99) have 60GB capacities. (For more details on the JVC GZ-MG330, see page 42.)



MX Revolution Mouse Makes Perfect Partner

Last year, Logitech introduced its MX Revolution Mouse (\$99.99; www.logitech.com), a laser mouse that offers two modes of navigation. One mode speeds through documents and Web pages effortlessly while the other mode gives precise click-to-click control. To make this mouse even more appealing, Logitech has paired it with a cordless keyboard. The Cordless Desktop MX 5500 Revolution (\$169.99) offers Bluetooth capability and a display right on the keyboard from which users can view information, such as time, date, temperature, number of key-strokes, and media data.



Blu-ray Stands Alone

It's been one of the biggest format rivalries since Betamax vs. VHS, and now the standoff is finally over. The HD DVD camp, led by Toshiba, has admitted defeat, saying it will no longer manufacture HD DVD players. Before this concession, more and more industry manufacturers and retailers were choosing the Blu-ray format as their high-def movie format of choice. Best Buy announced that beginning in March, it would feature Blu-ray hardware and software "prominently" in stores and online.

Worldwide PC Market Grew In 2007

According to analyst firm Gartner, worldwide shipments of computers in 2007 increased by 13% over 2006. Shipment totals reached 271.2 million units in 2007, with 75.9 million units shipping in the fourth quarter. The report shows a trend in markets from different parts of the world. Emerging areas such as Asia/Pacific showed the strongest growth, while growth in the United States slowed down. Strong sales in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa helped make the EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) region the largest PC market in 2007. Accounting for 18.2% of the worldwide PC shipments in 2007, HP nudged past Dell into the No. 1 position after the two companies basically tied for first place in 2006.

WORLDWIDE PC VENDOR UNIT SHIPMENT ESTIMATES FOR 2007 (THOUSANDS OF UNITS)

Company	2007 Shipments	2007 Market Share (%)	2006 Shipments	2006 Market Share (%)	2007-2006 Growth (%)
Hewlett-Packard	49,434	18.2	38,037	15.9	30
Dell	38,709	14.3	38,050	15.9	1.7
Acer	24,257	8.9	18,252	7.6	32.9
Lenovo	20,131	7.4	16,652	7	20.9
Toshiba	10,932	4	9,198	3.8	18.9
Others	127,717	47.1	119,022	49.8	7.3
Total	271,180	100	239,211	100	13.4

NOTE: Data includes desktops, notebooks, and x86 servers.

Study Reveals Relationship Between Kids & Digital Content

The NPD Group recently released a report called "Kids and Digital Content" that offers a look at how kids use digital content on consumer-electronics devices. Findings reveal that, on average, kids between two and 14 use various types of digital content on a single device between three and seven times a month. The four key devices were identified as a computer, video game system, portable digital music player, and cell phone. On these four devices, playing games was the most common activity.

The report's data was collected in October 2007 through a national online survey of moms living with kids ages two through 14. Findings reveal that on average, kids spend between \$6 and \$12 on some type of digital content monthly and between \$13 and \$18 on physical content.

FREQUENCY OF MONTHLY DOWNLOADS TO CE DEVICES

Online video clips	7.1 times/month
Music videos	5.7 times/month
Music	4.2 times/month
Games	3.1 times/month
Ring tones/tunes	2.8 times/month

tidbits



At just 0.76 inches at its thickest point and 0.16 inches at its thinnest, the new Apple **MacBook**

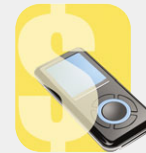
Air notebook is the thinnest notebook on the market.

Source: Apple

The **Indian IT services** market is expected to grow to \$10.73 billion (U.S. dollars) by 2011.



Source: Gartner



According to the "U.S. Consumer Electronics Sales and Forecasts 2003-2008" report, overall

shipment revenues of consumer electronics in 2008 are expected to top \$171 billion.

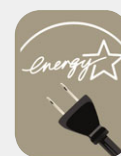
Source: CEA

Sales of **LCD TVs**

in the 40-inch to greater-than-45-inches category grew by almost 300% from 2006 to 2007.



Source: Quixel Research, LLC



Energy Star

guidelines helped save Americans approximately \$14 billion on their energy bills in the year 2007.

Source: CEA

Canon EOS Rebel XSi

A Feature-Rich, Entry-Level D-SLR

It's not every day that you find a feature-rich camera for an entry-level price. After all, the old adage that you get what you pay for often holds true. Although many of us may be leery of a D-SLR with professional features and an affordable price tag, Canon's new EOS Rebel XSi (\$899.99; www.usa.canon.com) shows us we really can have a solid camera that's stocked with features, and it won't break the bank.

The Best Of Both Worlds

D-SLRs have a lot to offer in terms of functionality and speed, but if there's one feature many users often miss when they transition from a compact digital camera to a D-SLR, it's the ability to frame images using the camera's LCD. Now, you can have the best of both worlds using the Rebel XSi's Live View feature. The 12.2MP XSi is the first camera in Canon's entry-level price category to feature Live View, which lets you view live action on the camera's large, 3-inch display in order to frame your shots. Live View is available in any of the Creative Zone modes, which include Program, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, and Manual.

When using Live View, you can choose between two auto-focus modes. In Quick Mode, the camera's mirror drops down, momentarily blacking out the LCD monitor in order to focus more quickly, whereas in Live Mode, you'll see an uninterrupted Live View while the camera focuses the shot. Auto-focus isn't quite as automatic in Live View as it



Canon EOS Rebel XSi
\$899.99 • www.usa.canon.com

is when shooting without Live View: You'll need to press the "*" button in order to focus your shot. Still, Live View provides an excellent way to frame your image when you're in the midst of a crowded auditorium and want to make sure to capture the action on stage and not the person's head in front of you.

Two Departures From The Past

The XSi is the first D-SLR in the Rebel line to include an Image Stabilized kit lens. If

you've ever used a non-image-stabilized lens in a dim environment, it probably didn't take long before you learned that the only way to obtain a crisp, clear shot was to use a tripod. After all, dim lighting conditions require the use of slow shutter speeds that are too slow to hand-hold and keep the camera steady for the duration of the exposure. With the XSi's kit lens, however, you won't have to haul around a tripod.

The XSi's EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5~5.6 IS kit lens is perfect for family shots indoors

around the Christmas tree or for capturing the glow of the candles on your daughter's birthday cake just before she makes her wish. To help ensure shots in these dimly lit environments are not blurry, this lens provides up to four stops of shake correction. For example, if you're able to hand-hold



shots at 1/60th of a second without a tripod but that is not a slow enough shutter speed for adequate exposure, image stabilization allows you to use a shutter speed as slow as 1/25th of a second.

The lens also has automatic panning detection that senses when you're deliberately panning to follow a moving subject (such as a race car). When this motion is detected, the lens automatically switches to a corrective panning mode, giving you blur-free results.

Previous Canon D-SLRs used CF (Compact Flash) memory cards. The XSi, however, takes SD and SDHC memory cards. Although this may seem like a minor difference to users looking to buy their first digital camera, users who already have a number of SD cards from their previous compact camera will appreciate the ability to share cards between cameras.

In A Snap

Expressions are priceless, but they aren't always long-lived. To ensure you won't miss your son's grin after he shoots the game-winning shot on the basketball court or your mom's expression when she finds out she's going to be a grandma for the first time, you'll appreciate the shooting speed and burst rate of the XSi. Simply change to burst mode and then press and hold down the camera's shutter button, and the camera will snap pictures at up to 3.5 frames per second until you let go or reach the maximum burst of 53 JPEG images. All pictures are captured at full resolution, so you can be confident that all of the shots will be big enough to print.

Professional Features

To help you get the best photos, the Rebel XSi incorporates a number of features previously found only in Canon's professional D-SLR cameras. Two of these features, the Highlight Tone Priority and High-ISO Noise Reduction functions, were first available on the professional EOS-1D Mark III Digital SLR. Highlight Tone Priority lets you increase the level of detail in bright areas of a scene without affecting the overall exposure of the image. In addition, because the XSi uses Canon's DIGIC III Image Processor, the camera can significantly reduce the digital noise that would typically appear in photos taken in low-light conditions and help you get a clear picture.

Canon's Auto Lighting Optimizer technology is another new feature for the XSi. This feature works in all exposure modes to automatically correct image brightness and contrast. This feature helps you achieve a balanced exposure in your photographs by lightening dark areas of the scene while still ensuring that bright areas maintain tonal detail.

Clean Photos

A single spec of dust can ruin an otherwise good photograph. Although you can generally remove the effects of dust on the camera's image sensor with photo-editing software, it's much easier to eliminate the dust from the photo before it's taken. The XSi ensures photos will be dust-free with its EOS Integrated Cleaning system. This three-part system consists of a Self-Cleaning Sensor Unit, new internal materials and body caps that are less prone to creating dust, and the Dust Delete Data feature which uses Digital Photo Professional software to automatically remove dust.

The Self-Cleaning Sensor Unit shakes dust particles off the camera's image sensor with ultrasonic vibrations. The dust is then trapped by an adhesive within the camera that prevents future dust interference. This self-cleaning feature activates each time the camera is turned on or off. It can also be activated manually.

If you are unable to remove dust from a photo using the Self-Cleaning Sensor Unit, you can use a computer and the supplied Digital Photo Professional software to remove the dust during post-processing. This feature detects where dust is located on the sensor using data collected from a test shot of a plain, white object. Those dust spots can then be removed from the final image using the Digital Photo Professional software. Because the camera and computer work



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together on this task, the process is much faster than if you were to correct each image by hand individually.

If the XSi's Self-Cleaning Sensor Unit and Digital Photo Professional software do not remove the dust, you can use the XSi's manual sensor cleaning function to raise the camera's mirror and clean the dust on the camera's image sensor manually.

But Wait, There's More

In addition to creating a feature-filled camera at an affordable price, Canon recently introduced the new EF-S 55–250mm *f*4~5.6 IS lens, which is a perfect complement to the Rebel XSi. Like the kit lens that accompanies the XSi, this

lightweight telephoto lens includes image-stabilization technology. It's often more difficult to keep a long telephoto lens steady than it is to steady a short lens such as the XSi's kit lens. As a result, image stabilization is even more important in the new EF-S 55–250mm *f*4~5.6 IS telephoto lens.

With this lens, you'll be able to hand-hold the camera and use slower shutter speeds without hauling around a tripod. This is possible because the EF-S 55–250mm *f*4~5.6 IS lens has up to four stops of correction. To illustrate further, if you could previously shoot with a similar, non-image-stabilized lens at 1/80th of a second without a tripod and still take a clear picture, you could get the same degree of

sharpness and clarity with this lens without a tripod at a shutter speed as slow as 1/30th of a second. The difference in the quality of your pictures that result from this four-stop correction is remarkable.

Additional features of this lens include automatic panning detection and close-focusing to an object as near as 3.6 feet. Whether you're following a bird in flight or your son pedaling away on his new bicycle, automatic panning detection will help you get a blur-free shot. If you'd rather take close-up shots of still life, such as a flower, this lens will help you fill the frame with a subject that's about 2x3 inches in size with its powerful zooming and close-focusing abilities. **RE**

HDTV Resolution Explained

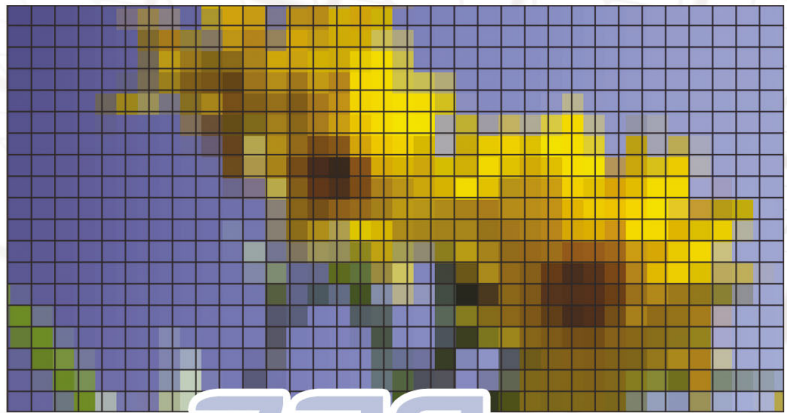
Decoding 720p, 1080i & Other Mumbo-Jumbo



What makes HDTVs better than the tried-and-true, relatively inexpensive SDTVs (standard-definition TVs) we

have used for decades? Sure, your typical HDTV has a widescreen for a better movie-viewing experience. It may have an ATSC (digital) TV tuner instead of a soon-to-be-obsolete NTSC (analog) tuner. And, depending on the HDTV's display technology, the set is probably considerably thinner than the old tube TV it replaced.

All these attributes are attractive, but the thing that really makes HDTV superior to SDTV is the "HD," which stands for high-definition. An SDTV can natively display video at DVD resolution, meaning with a picture made up of 720 horizontal pixels and 480 vertical pixels, or 720 x 480 resolution. (The vertical height of a CRT TV's picture is technically measured by the number of its horizontal lines, such as 480 in the United States. For comparison purposes, however, you can think of the number of lines in a CRT as the number of vertical pixels in an LCD or plasma TV.) A widescreen SDTV may have an 852 x 480 image, which many DVD players can fill by digitally stretching the video from 720 x 480 to a wider 852 x 480 or by letterboxing the video.



720p

HDTVs use more pixels to display video than do SDTVs (counting tube TVs' horizontal lines as vertical pixels). There currently are two HDTV video standards available to consumers through broadcast, cable, and satellite channels, as well as through BD (Blu-ray Disc) and HD DVD movies. A video resolution of 1,280 x 720 pixels is called 720, while the more detailed 1080 standard offers 1,920 x 1,080 pixels. Both standards are more or less named for their pictures' vertical height in pixels.

The more pixels, the finer the detail the video can show. For instance, in a big, medieval battle scene, you'll be

able to pick out individual foot soldiers in the BD or HD DVD version, whereas they may be indistinct in the DVD edition.

Of course, your HDTV's actual picture quality depends a lot on the video you feed it. If you tune in to a 1080 cable channel or play a 1080 movie on a BD or HD DVD player, your 1080 HDTV will show you the video as it was intended to be seen—that is, a pixel-for-pixel reproduction of it.

Play the same 1080 video on a 720 HDTV, and the set will downscale the video to fit in its 1,280 x 720 (or 1,366

x 768) pixels. There will be a corresponding minor or major drop in image quality, depending on the TV; namely, you'll notice images aren't as sharp because there are fewer pixels to render the image than were used to create the video. Some 720 sets claim support for 1080 video, but this means downscaling is involved. Downscaling means using a single pixel to show the information of several. For example, a 320 x 240 portable DVD player will

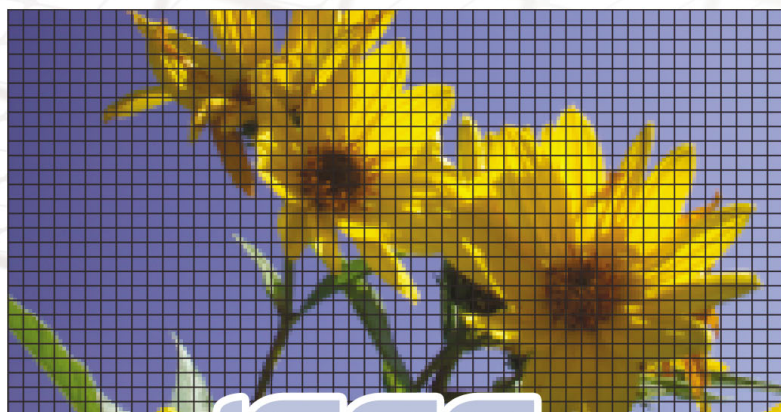
depending on how skillful the player or HDTV is at the upconversion process.

I vs. P

There's one more major thing you should know. You'll see HDTV resolution standards expressed with a lower-case i or p at the end, such as 720p, 1080i, and 1080p. These letters don't tell you anything about the resolution

due to its 480-line picture height and interlaced display method.)

On the other hand, **progressive-scan** (p) video, such as 1080p, shows you an entire frame of video all at once, then the next frame, and so on. All else being equal, progressive video changes only half as often as interlaced video, but most recent 1080p sets increase the refresh rate to 60Hz or 120Hz to compensate.



1080i

squash the video into a lower-resolution image, usually with rather jagged object edges. Check an HDTV's pixel resolution to determine whether it can natively (without scaling) display 1080 video—that is, it has 1,920 x 1,080 resolution.

Likewise, if you pipe a 720 x 480 DVD into your 720 or 1080 HDTV, either the disc player or the TV will upconvert the video to use the greater number of pixels in the screen. During upconversion, a video processor spreads each pixel in the source video over five or six pixels on the screen. The result could look blocky or reasonably good,

of the video, even though they tag along with the resolution numbers.

Instead, i and p tell you how the video is presented on the screen. **Interlaced** (i) video displays half of each frame of video at a time, with the odd rows alternating with the even rows. For example, an HDTV would show a 1080i broadcast channel as the odd rows of the first frame, then the even rows, then the odd rows of frame two, and so on, faster than the eye can follow. (This is the traditional way TVs have displayed video all of these years. If you used HDTV naming conventions to describe standard TV, it would be called 480i

Interlaced video doesn't cost as much to display (in terms of both video processor price and bandwidth) as progressive-scan video. However, the edges of fast-moving objects in interlaced video may seem to have staggered edges, like the teeth of a comb. Progressive video is more visually appealing but may seem to flicker on certain TVs and judder with certain types of video, such as footage of fenceposts whizzing by a moving car. To combat these problems, HDTV manufacturers incorporate features such as 120Hz screen refresh rates and anti-judder technologies such as Sony's MotionFlow and Samsung's Auto Motion Plus 120Hz.

Bandwidth

The higher the resolution, the more data in the video signal. Also, the higher the refresh rate, such as 120Hz versus 60Hz, the more data. Therefore, 720p video requires more bandwidth (data-carrying capacity) from its cables, equipment, and over-the-air broadcast spectrum than regular 480i programming.

Likewise, 1080p video at 120Hz takes up even more bandwidth. If your HDTV is capable of this mode, use high-quality HDMI cables and A/V equipment, such as those certified as compliant with HDMI version 1.3, which can handle more bandwidth than earlier versions. **LG**

BY MARTY SEMS

Make The HD Connection

A Source Guide



brand new HDTV without HD content is like a Ferrari with an empty tank of gas. It's pretty to look at, but it doesn't take you anywhere. Fortunately, HD programming is readily available at a price that won't put a dent in your retirement fund.

You'll find HD source content available as OTA (over-the-air) broadcasts in your area, satellite or cable offerings, and as movies on either BDs (Blu-ray Discs) or HD DVDs (if you already have them). Until all of the media you use with your HDTV is in HD, you'll need to evaluate the major HD sources to find one that best fits your lifestyle.

The Future

Until HD programming becomes ubiquitous, your best option may be mixing and matching the current technologies; combine a BD player with either OTA or a satellite/cable provider.

BY CHRIS JACKSON

Over-The-Air Broadcasts



Although receiving HD broadcasts via an antenna may seem anachronistic in this digital age, OTA broadcasts may be the most affordable way to get HD content. By Feb. 17, 2009, all television stations are required to switch to a digital signal, and many are already offering HD broadcasts. Best of all, OTA broadcasts are free to anyone who can receive the signal.

To watch OTA broadcasts, you'll need an ATSC tuner, such as the Samsung DTB-H260F (\$219; www.samsung.com), and an antenna, such as the RCA ANT103 (\$19.99; www.rca.com). Most HDTVs now being sold include an ATSC tuner, but older models may require a separate tuner to access the signal. The type of antenna you'll need depends on your proximity to the station's broadcast antenna. The best way to determine the optimal antenna is to visit AntennaWeb (www.antennaweb.org), where you can also find information about the stations in your area.

OTA isn't suitable for everyone because it depends on your location and the ability of a receiver to pick up the broadcast signal. In addition, you may need to reposition your antenna for different stations, and although there are devices that will rotate your antenna to the appropriate azimuth, these can add to your overall equipment costs.

Satellite Broadcast Systems



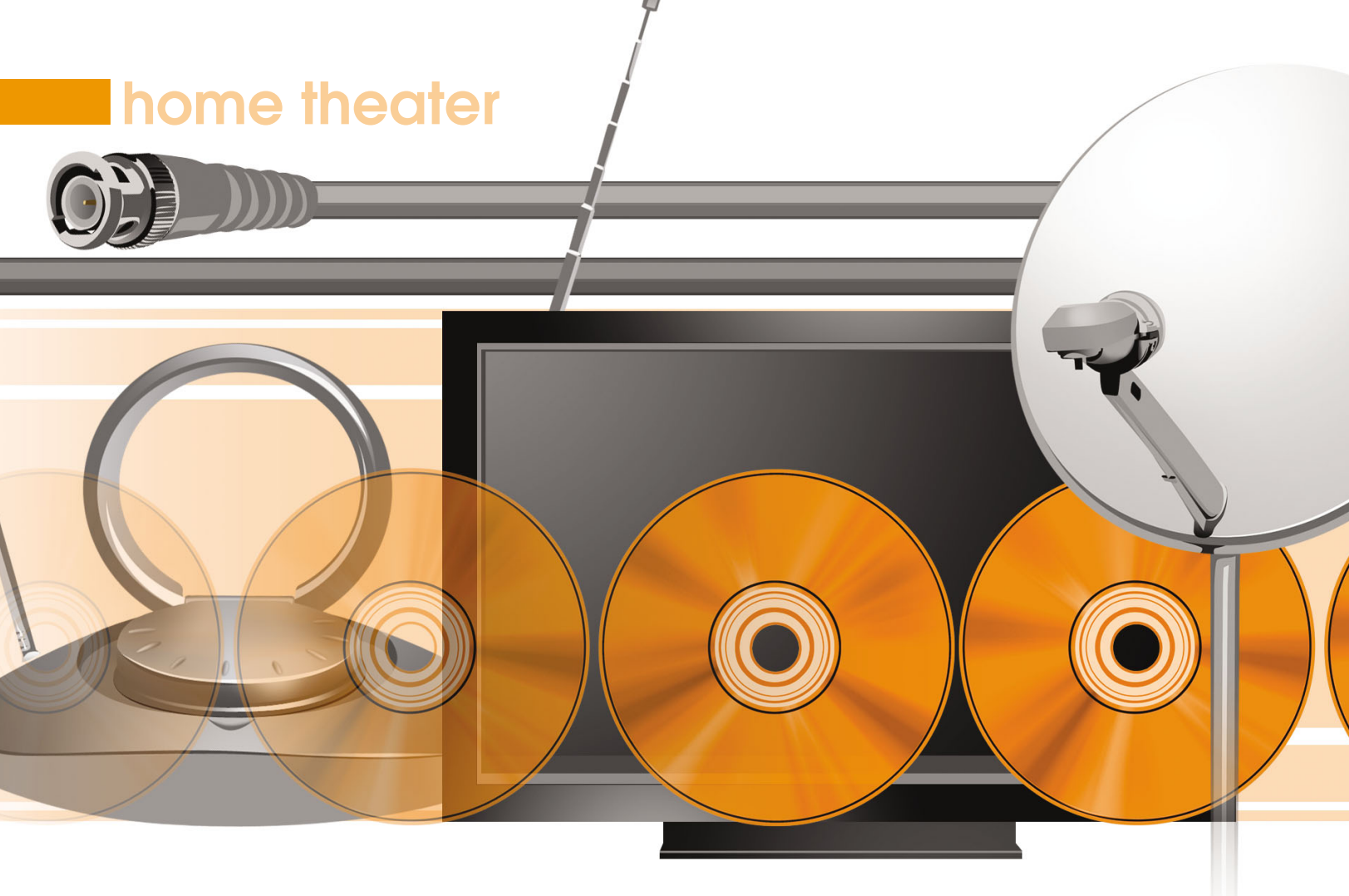
Another source of HD programming is through satellite broadcasts. Both DirecTV (www.directv.com) and Dish Network (www.dishnetwork.com) provide an array of HD programming.

To receive satellite broadcasts, you'll need a satellite dish and an HD-compatible receiver.

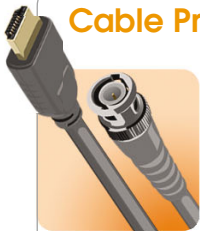
In addition, you'll need to be able to place this satellite dish so that it has a clear line of sight to the southern sky (where the satellites are positioned). Most satellite providers include free installation when you buy the equipment or sign up for multiple years of service, and as with cable service, you can usually opt to pay extra for an HD DVR.

Satellite systems provide an alternative to cable providers, but there are some drawbacks. Depending on the provider and its deals, your initial up-front cost may be higher than with cable. And you may have difficulty receiving local stations through your satellite provider.

home theater



Cable Providers



If you're an existing cable subscriber, chances are you're being offered HD content as part of the cable provider's tiers. Don't confuse digital cable with HD programming, though. Digital cable simply describes how the programming is sent, not its resolution. Most cable providers

have already switched to delivering their programming in a digital form because it allows them to maximize the use of their bandwidth.

Most cable providers offer HD content as part of their digital cable package; if you don't have digital cable, you may need to swap out your existing set-top box with one capable of handling digital/HD content. You'll also need to connect the box to your HDTV via an HDMI cable such as the Dynex DX-AV001 (\$49.99; www.dynexproducts.com) or a set of component cables. Component cables use three individual cables to carry an analog video signal, whereas HDMI uses a single cable to carry both digital video and audio. Many of the set-top boxes that can handle HD also include an HD-compatible DVR for recording your HD (and standard-definition) shows. HD recordings take up more space than SD content, so be sure you have enough room on your DVR when you need to record your favorite shows.

Blu-ray Discs



Finally, for the best picture and audio quality, none of the previous sources can match Blu-ray Disc players. Cable and satellite providers often use a significant amount of compression on

their HD programming, which causes a degradation in image quality. In contrast, BDs provide the best possible picture quality, although at the moment, you won't find an in-depth catalog of movies. You can expect that to change in the coming months, however, after Toshiba ceases producing its HD DVD players.

Using BD players is similar to using DVD players. The formats are not compatible, however, so you won't be able to play your DVDs in most BD players. BD players typically connect to your HDTV using an HDMI cable or component cables.

At some point, you may expect to see BD combo drives that'll be able to handle CDs, DVDs, and BDs.

Yes, You Need To Calibrate

Give Your HDTV A Makeover

It's probably for the best that we consumers don't have access to the settings that will make our HDTVs look their best. Sure, you can use a calibration disc, but chances are good that the TV's menu controls won't let you do everything those discs suggest you do. The advanced stuff requires a trip to the HDTV's service menu, which is accessed by punching a secret code into your remote control. We don't advise that you do so, however, because you can ruin your TV.

The HDTV manufacturers keep the code a secret for a reason: Poking around in the wrong places can have devastating consequences. "Consumers should never go into the service menu," says Ira George, an ISF-certified Elite Services Specialist for Geek Squad (www.bestbuy.com; go to TV & Home Theater Installation) in Omaha, Nebr. "If they don't know what they're doing, they will render the TV useless."

Indeed, one ISF-certified calibrator we spoke with years ago during a calibration session told us the sad tale of a customer who entered the service menu

and accidentally turned off the electron guns used to display an image on the screen. He couldn't see anything—including the service menu—and his television was essentially broken until the ISF calibrator arrived to save the day.

As if going into the service menu isn't perilous enough, there's not much the average consumer can do once they get there. You need pricey equipment to adjust the settings found there—exactly the kinds of equipment ISF-certified calibrators have. "We use calibration equipment provided by Sencore," says George. "It is a color analyzer that is used to set the white balance of the customers' displays. Without that equipment, customers cannot accurately set the colors of their televisions."

What To Expect From A Calibration

If you decide to call in the Geek Squad Home Theater Calibration team to calibrate your HDTV, you can expect the techs to establish maximum contrast between black and white so images

look their best and retain maximum detail. The ISF-certified Elite Service Specialist will also use color analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible,

letting you see video exactly the same way that the person creating it did.

A calibration session includes two inputs on the set, so if you have a DVD player and cable box, for example, the HDTV's inputs will be calibrated specifically for the video output from those two devices. Calibration also adjusts the sound levels and positioning of the speakers in a surround-sound setup, so your entire home theater will look and sound as good as it can. ●

There are only a few downsides to calibration. The first is that it can't be done right out of the box. "It is recommended that the TV have at least 100 hours of use before a calibration can be performed properly," says George. There also are a few things calibration can't overcome. "Calibration cannot correct alignment issues in rear-projection TVs," George says. "Calibration also cannot correct any service issues with the TV."

Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your television for a professional calibration session, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER



HDTVs

5 Must-Have Accessories

As you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer-electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories.

Sure, these accessories have multi-channel audio, gold-plated connectors, nitrogen-injected insulation, and fully-articulating mounting arms, but they can't compete visually with their big-screen, flat-panel HDTV counterparts.

Despite outward appearances, however, there are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. **FC**

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

1



Wall mounts let you display your HDTV to its greatest advantage. To help you see

your TV from the best possible viewing angle, look into a swivel mount, which lets you adjust the vertical and horizontal positions. A wall-mounted HDTV also clears a bit of floor space and keeps your living room or home theater neat and clutter-free. Before hanging the wall mount and installing the television, make sure your theater recliners and couches are positioned where you'll be happy with them for a while so you don't have to drill new holes in the walls every time you want to rearrange the furniture.

2

TV stands are good option if you'd rather not drill holes in your family room's newly painted walls. Likewise, if your walls are made of cement or cinderblock, a stand is probably a better option than a wall mount. Today's A/V furniture manufacturers offer gorgeous, showroom-style stands in a variety of materials, including warm wood (available in many stains), minimalist brushed steel, and clean-looking glass. You can get a triangular corner model, a high-backed cabinet that includes a mount for flat-panel HDTVs, and a rack with adjustable shelves to accommodate the rest of your A/V gear.



3

HDMI cables eliminate the need for multiple cables. We're guessing neither you nor your spouse wants bundles of wires and



cords snaking around the living room, and those nests of wires are attractive nuisances for children and pets. HDMI cables are all-in-one cords that carry uncompressed digital audio and digital video signals to and from your HDTV and its components, eliminating the need for separate audio and video cables. Rocketfish's 4-foot HDMI cable (\$44.99; www.bestbuy.com) passes your digital signals—nicely and neatly—among your devices. Be sure to budget for this must-have.

4

A surround-sound system brings the aural experience of a theater home. You've perhaps struggled to keep volume levels steady while watching TV. The intrusion of a loud

commercial in the middle of your favorite show is startling; likewise, it's jolting when a quiet part of your favorite movie is suddenly interrupted by a too-loud scene change. A good-quality surround-sound system will feature an equalizer, which will prevent volume extremes in movies and HD broadcasts that are capable of 5.1 or better surround sound.



5

A universal remote lets you control all of your A/V equipment with one device. No one—not your mom, dad, grandma, or even the kids—can figure out the remotes

when there's a different one for each component in your home-theater system. Consolidate the controls with a programmable universal remote, which lets you control everything with a single device. The Logitech Harmony ONE Advanced Universal Remote (\$249.99; www.logitech.com) lets you control 15 devices at once. Better still, you'll keep your living room clean and clutter-free.



Buying An HDTV

Top 5 Things To Know

In addition to the money you spend on a new HDTV, buying one is a big decision because there are myriad options and plenty of accessories you'll need, too. Here we identify the five most important things to consider when shopping for the right HDTV. **PC**

BY GREGORY ANDERSON



1

Buy quality cables. Few home-theater components, not even the most expensive TVs and DVD players, come with high-quality cables. Plan to spend an extra hundred dollars buying cables, such as HDMI, DVI, or component, for the highest-res formats each device can support. HDMI cables help eliminate cord tangles; a single cable carries both HD audio and video signals and supports all HD resolutions (720p, 1080i, and 1080p) while maintaining a digital signal. Whatever option you select, don't buy the cheapest or shortest cables on the store shelf. Low-quality construction invites electrical interference and unreliable connections, and the cables may not stand up to the normal wear and tear.

2

Don't hang it yourself. In most cases, it's a good idea to hire a Geek Squad (www.bestbuy.com) pro to hang your HDTV. To successfully install a wall mount on drywall requires the right bracket, a correct wall stud alignment, and a reliable attachment between the TV and its bracket. Brick, plaster, or cinderblocks provide an even greater challenge. Best Buy's Geek Squad offers affordable installation services and usually guarantees its work. So, unless you're willing to bet your big new investment on your carpentry skills, bring in the experts.

3

Make yourself at home. Your living room setup is different from a warehouse filled with walls of shimmering televisions. In order to get the most realistic impressions of HDTVs at the store, take advantage of retailers' efforts to re-create home environments. Try to preview your prospective purchase in these settings and bring a few of your favorite DVDs to see how they look on different HDTV models before making any final decisions.

4

Choose the right sized TV. A small room with a couch near the TV means you should buy a small HDTV; a large room with plenty of seating requires a big screen. To calculate optimal screen size, use the three-to-five rule. Measure the distance, in feet, from your TV to your chair. Multiply the number by 3 and then by 5. Those numbers are the minimum and maximum screen sizes, measured in diagonal inches, for that space.

5

Fine-tune color. There's more to a brilliant, sharp picture than resolution; color reproduction and calibration make a difference, too. When you're browsing HDTVs, be sure the colors are consistently true to life. Blacks shouldn't appear gray, bright areas shouldn't wash away detail, and high-paced action scenes shouldn't have jagged edges. Calibration ensures your HDTV's settings will be better than the showroom settings. Consider a professional calibration service (such as Geek Squad), which uses special equipment otherwise unavailable to consumers.

Plasma & LCD TVs

What's The Difference?



Flat-panel televisions continue to top electronics shoppers' wish lists. However, plasma and LCD sets are based on two very different technologies, so knowing their advantages and disadvantages will help you make an informed decision about which to bring home. **FG**

BY BRIAN HODGE

Plasma

Pros

- Because plasma TVs are based on phosphorescent-screen technology, their pictures most resemble those of tube TVs in terms of brightness, color depth and shading, and picture clarity.
- Plasma still has the edge over LCDs on contrast ratio (often as high as 10,000:1), black levels, and reproducing subtle color shadings, particularly in dim scenes.
- Pixel response is very rapid, so fast-moving imagery shouldn't blur.
- Plasma sets are generally more affordable in larger screen sizes—say, over 50 inches.
- Although this is a more subjective evaluation, many viewers find that plasma sets do a better job of scaling up lower-resolution standard-definition TV signals.

Cons

- Some plasmas consume more electricity and put out much more heat during use than LCDs.
- At higher altitudes (above 6,500 feet), lower air pressure can cause the set to produce a buzzing noise similar to a neon sign.
- Although it's less likely now than with older sets, plasmas (usually cheaper, low-quality models) can still be susceptible to burn-in from static images such as stock-ticker bars and video-game gauges.
- With sets of equivalent size, plasmas are much heavier than LCDs, which can affect plans for wall mounting, and they can also be harder for one person to move.

Plasma Is Best For:

- Movie buffs
- Sports fanatics
- Viewers shopping for a large set
- Viewers prepared to pay for professional installation

LCD

Pros

- LCDs run cooler and often require less power to operate than plasma TVs.
- LCDs use a screen coating that reflects little ambient light, so glare and washout aren't a problem even under bright lighting conditions.
- There's no chance of image burn-in.
- Many LCD TVs have PC-compatible connections so the set can double as a computer monitor.
- With a few exceptions, LCD is your main choice for sets 40 inches and under. Most new under-40-inch plasmas come from off-brands that may be more of a gamble than sets from the major names.

Cons

- Pixel response may be a tad slower than plasma, so fast-moving imagery might blur.
- New LCDs may have stuck pixels, which show up as bright pinpoints of light. And a hard rap on the screen may break crystals and leave a permanent dark spot.
- True blacks can be difficult to reproduce because the fluorescent backlight still shines through the pixel grid (although some of the newest models are starting to address this by turning off the backlight in select screen areas).
- After a few years of use, the aging backlight may shift color somewhat, forcing the user to recalibrate the set.

LCD Is Best For:

- Avid gamers
- Viewers with brightly lit rooms
- Viewers shopping for a smaller set
- Viewers who want to do their own no-fuss installation
- Computer users



DLP® TV

Stunning Picture, Sleek Look



Mitsubishi Diamond
73" 1080p DLP®
HDTV (WD-73833)

MSRP: \$4,299.98

SKU: 8454745

www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Quick Overview

See what you've been missing. Mitsubishi is taking color to a new level with x.v.Color™ support and its exclusive 6-Color Light Engine™. x.v.Color™, the new standard for HDTV, enables 80% more color than standard HDTV. The 6-Color Light Engine™ displays a wider range of colors, brighter colors, and whiter whites. With additional color features, the result is breathtaking realism with vivid, yet natural color without compromise.

Perfect For

Mitsubishi's SuperSlim™ design makes the 73833 perfect for those who want maximum picture in minimum space.

Outstanding Benefits

- 1080p DLP® display
- Exclusive 6-Color Light Engine™
- x.v.Color™
- Color 4D noise reduction, PerfectColor™, and PerfectTint™
- Smooth120Hz™
- Plush1080p®
- TurboLight180™
- Tru1080p™ processing
- Connectivity—four HDMI and three component
- 3D-ready and split screen

Coollest Feature

Front-panel USB port, so you can enjoy your favorite photos on the big screen.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com



LCD TV

Vivid Color, Slim Frame



Mitsubishi 244 Series
Diamond 1080p LCD
Flat Panel HDTVs
(LT-46244/LT-52244)

MSRPs: 46-inch model \$3,299.98
52-inch model \$3,799.98

SKUs: 8500721 (46-inch model)
8500801 (52-inch model)

www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Quick Overview

More color for a more colorful image. Mitsubishi is taking color to a new level with x.v.Color™ support and Mitsubishi's Full Spectrum Color™. x.v.Color™, a new standard for HDTV, enables 80% more color than standard HDTV. Mitsubishi's Full Spectrum Color™ results in 25% more color than standard LCD. The result is breathtaking realism with vivid yet natural color without compromise.

Perfect For

With its ultra-thin frame and high-quality hidden speakers, the 244 Series is perfect for those who want a large screen that takes up little space.

Outstanding Benefits

- 1080p LCD flat-panel display
- Full Spectrum Color™
- x.v.Color™
- Smooth120Hz™
- Plush 1080p®
- Tru1080p™ processing
- PerfectColor™
- PerfectTint™
- Connectivity: Four HDMI, three component, two S-Video inputs
- Manual swivel base

Coollest Feature

CableCARD slot. With the addition of a CableCARD slot, you can watch descrambled cable TV without a set-top box.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



LCD TV

A Home Cinematic Experience



Westinghouse TX-42F430S LCD HDTV

MSRP: \$1,199.99

SKU: 8386285

www.westinghousedigital.com

Quick Overview

Turn your home theater into the embodiment of cinema expression with the new TX-42F430S LCD HDTV from Westinghouse Digital. This display is not only an engineering marvel but designed with class and sophistication, featuring subtle curves, a thin, 3.7-inch (without spine and base) housing, and a deep onyx bezel with brushed titanium accents.

Perfect For

If you crave an HDTV with a sophisticated design and the flexibility of six HD inputs—four HDMI, then look no further than the TX-42F430S LCD HDTV.

Outstanding Benefits

- 42-inch, 1080p LCD HDTV with ATSC/NTSC/ClearQAM tuner
- 1080Pure™—1080p out of HD inputs including component
- Supports all TV/Video formats (1080p, 1080i, 720p, 480p, 480i)
- Autosource™—automatically detects and switches to multiple video sources; enjoy the flexibility of connecting all of your HD devices to this LCD TV
- Inputs include four HDMI, two HD components, one S-Video
- E.Saver, a Westinghouse energy-saving mode, keeps the TV's power consumption below one watt when it's on standby or turned off

Coollest Feature

The **Advanced Calibration Menu** allows the users to make adjustments to calibration settings such as color temperature and video settings.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

INSIGNIA

LCD TV

HD Doesn't Have To Come At A High Price



Insignia®
NS-LCD42HD

MSRP: \$996.99

SKU: 8463076

www.bestbuy.com

Quick Overview

Movies, TV shows, and video games will look and sound their best on this flat-panel LCD HDTV with an exquisite 1080p display. With support for the highest-resolution HD signals, the Insignia 42 inch 1080p Flat-Panel LCD HDTV creates an amazing entertainment environment no matter what you watch.

Perfect For

If you want a quality flat-screen HDTV for a great price, look no further than the Insignia 42 inch 1080p Flat-Panel LCD HDTV.

Outstanding Benefits

- 42-inch, 1080p flat-screen display
- 16:9 widescreen aspect ratio delivers a cinema-style entertainment experience
- A high brightness (500 cd/m²) and contrast ratio (1,200:1) give you stunning video
- A wide, 178-degree viewing angle makes it easy to watch this TV no matter where you sit
- Two built-in 15W stereo speakers and fixed audio input
- Ultra-slim (4.1 inches), lightweight design is ideal for wall mounting
- Inputs include 2 HDMI, 2 component video, 1 S-Video, 2 composite video, 7 stereo audio, 1 PC; outputs include 1 coaxial and 1 digital audio
- V-Chip parental controls

Coollest Feature

A **built-in HDTV Tuner** lets you receive over-the-air high-definition broadcasts, where available.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Speakers

Delight Your Senses



Mirage Prestige 5 Home Theater System

MSRP: \$1,248 (as shown)

SKUs: 8318162 (speakers)

7478455 (subwoofer)

www.miragespeakers.com

Quick Overview

The Mirage Prestige 5 speaker system is premium, attractive, and ideal for use in small spaces. This 5-channel system boldly produces 360 degrees of audio brilliance. It directs sound toward you by using walls, ceilings, and other surfaces to reflect sound, resulting in an enveloping experience like no other.

Perfect For

The Prestige 5 is a premium entertainment setup for those who desire a home-theater system with compact dimensions, exquisite style, and dynamic sound performance.

Outstanding Benefits

- Clean, sophisticated, high-gloss black lacquer finish
- Great for wall mounting or shelf placement
- Four satellite speakers for main channel and surround-sound use
- Center channel delivers crisp dialogue with powerful impact
- Patented Omniguide technology creates a 360-degree pattern of sound
- Each satellite speaker matches the depth of today's flat-panel TVs
- Five-channel Prestige package retails for \$899
- Recommended black Omni S8 subwoofer sold separately for \$349

Coollest Feature

The Prestige 5 **distributes uniform tonal balance**, making your entire room the sweet spot. Regardless of where you sit, you've got the best seat in the house.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores (Magnolia Home Theater) and www.bestbuy.com



Multi-Room Music System Fill Your House With Music



Sonos Bundle 130

Includes ZP80, ZP100,
Sonos Controller

MSRP: \$999

SKU: 8343599

www.sonos.com

Quick Overview

The Sonos® Multi-Room Music System wirelessly plays all your favorite songs all over your house. Just put ZonePlayers™ wherever you want music and use the full-color Sonos Controller to instantly play any song in any room.

Perfect For

Sonos is designed for music lovers—whether you have a digital music collection stored on a computer or not. Sonos also lets you find and play millions of songs from online music services like the Best Buy Digital Music Store. Plus, it comes with free 30 day trials to Rhapsody® and SIRIUS®.

Outstanding Benefits

- **Multi-room music.** Amplified and nonamplified ZonePlayers let you play music in rooms with or without existing audio equipment.
- **Wireless that works.** Control everything from the palm of your hand. ZonePlayers work wirelessly all over the house.*
- **Musical freedom.** Play the same song in different rooms or different songs in different rooms—simultaneously.
- **Simple setup.** No network protocols to configure or PC required.
- **Expandable and updateable.** Expand to 32 rooms and get new feature updates automatically.

Coollest Feature

The **Sonos Controller** gives you **instant access** to all your favorite music and all your rooms from the palm of your hand. Browse music libraries, search for songs, view album art, select zones, and more.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

* One ZonePlayer must be connected to a router, and all the rest will work wirelessly.

FirstGlimpse

Which LCD TV Is Best For You?



So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. With all the models on today's market, you want to be sure the model you pick out is the best for you and your family. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

		Size	Dimensions; Weight*	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs
What It Means		The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers
	Insignia NS-LCD42HD MSRP: \$996.99 SKU 8463076	42 inches	28.6x41.4x 4.1 inches; 56.1 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	2 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 2 composite; 1 PC	2 audio
	Westinghouse TX-42F430S MSRP: \$1,199.99 SKU 8386285	42 inches	27x42.2x5.5 inches; 61.1 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF	2 audio
	Magnavox 32MD357B/37 MSRP: \$899.99 SKU 8507289	32 inches	21.4x31.1x 6.25 inches; 32 pounds	720p	176 degrees	2 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 1 PC; 2 composite	1 audio
	HP LC4776N MSRP: \$1,899.99 SKU 8346998	47 inches	29.3x44.4x 5.4 inches; 66 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 1 PC; 1 antenna	2 audio
	Sharp AQUOS LC-42D64U MSRP: \$2,099.99 SKU 8500918	42 inches	25.44x39.53x 3.75 inches; 48.5 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite; 1 PC	1 audio
	Mitsubishi Diamond LT-46244 MSRP: \$3,299.98 SKU 8500721	46 inches	26.9x42.3x 5.6 inches; 63.3 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 2 composite	2 audio
	Sony Bravia KDL-40XBR4 MSRP: \$2,299.99 SKU 8460257	40 inches	25.9x43.7x 4.8 inches; 58 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite; 1 PC	2 audio
	JVC LT-42E488 MSRP: \$1,700 SKU 8537997	42 inches	26.5x40.6x 4.4 inches; 51 pounds	720p	178 degrees	2 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite	2 audio

* without stand

Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning on buying a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

What It Means		Size	Dimensions; Weight*	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs
		The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers
	Hitachi P60X901 MSRP: \$6,999.98 SKU 8507387	60 inches	37.6x59.4x6.2 inches; 162 pounds	1080p	170 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 2 composite	3 audio
	Insignia NS-PDP50 MSRP: \$1,299.99 SKU 8454996	50 inches	32x51.4x4.2 inches; 95 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC	1 audio
	LG 60PY3D MSRP: \$5,399.95 SKU 8378677	60 inches	37.8x63.5x4.6 inches; 142.4 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 2 PC; 1 RF	3 audio
	Panasonic TH-50PX80U MSRP: \$1,699.95 SKU 8723045	50 inches	31.1x47.6x3.7 inches; 76.8 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 2 audio	2 audio; 1 video
	Panasonic TH-42PX80U MSRP: \$1,199.95 SKU 8722448	42 inches	26.7x40.2x3.7 inches; 56.7 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 composite; 2 S-Video	2 audio
	Pioneer PDP-5080HD MSRP: \$2,500 SKU 8378739	50 inches	31.3x48.2x4.5 inches; 76.7 pounds	720p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite; 1 PC; 2 RF	2 audio
	Pioneer PRO-110FD MSRP: \$6,000 SKU 8483651	50 inches	28.4x56.8x4.7 inches; 90 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 component; 3 composite; 1 S-Video; 1 PC; 2 RF	3 audio; 3 video
	Samsung FP-T5894W MSRP: \$4,599.99 SKU 8580822	58 inches	33x57.7x3.9 inches; 59 pounds	1080p	175 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 RF; 1 S-Video; 2 component; 2 A/V	2 audio

* without stand

Which Rear-Projection TV Is Best For You?

If you're in the market for a big HDTV, a rear-projection model can give you a lot of bang for your buck. Here is a chart that compares eight models, all available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

What It Means		Projection technology	Size	Dimensions ; Weight*	Native resolution	Inputs	Outputs
		RPTVs either use DLP, LCD, or LCoS display technology	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers
	Mitsubishi Diamond WD-65833 MSRP: \$2,999 SKU 8454736	DLP	65 inches	39.5x58.2x15.4 inches; 78 pounds	1080p	4 HDMI; 3 component; 2 S-Video; 2 RF	3 audio; 1 video
	Mitsubishi Diamond WD-73833 MSRP: \$4,299 SKU 8454745	DLP	73 inches	43.6x65.2x17.5 inches; 98 pounds	1080p	4 HDMI; 3 component; 2 S-Video; 2 composite; 2 RF	3 audio; 1 video
	Samsung HLT5076S MSRP: \$1,899 SKU 8293857	DLP	50 inches	30.44x45.57x11.57 inches; 62.4 pounds	1080p	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 1 PC; 2 RF	1 audio
	Samsung HLT5676S MSRP: \$2,099.99 SKU 8293839	DLP	56 inches	33.3x50.8x10.5 inches; 65.3 pounds	1080p	3 HDMI; 2 component; 2 S-Video; 2 RF; 1 PC; 2 composite	2 A/V; 1 video
	Sony Bravia KDS-50A3000 MSRP: \$1,799.99 SKU 8451659	LCoS (Sony's name for it is SXRD)	50 inches	33.5x45.35x14.37 inches; 75 pounds	1080p	3 HDMI; 2 component; 1 RF; 1 S-Video; 3 composite; 1 PC	5 audio
	Sony Bravia KDS-60A3000 MSRP: \$2,699.99 SKU 8451668	LCoS (Sony's name for it is SXRD)	60 inches	38.8x53.9x16.75 inches; 90.4 pounds	1080p	3 HDMI; 2 component; 1 S-Video; 3 composite; 1 PC	2 audio
	Sony Bravia KDF-50E3000 MSRP: \$1,799.99 SKU 8390537	LCD	50 inches	33.4x46.7x12.6 inches; 62.8 pounds	1080p	2 HDMI; 3 component; 1 S-Video; 1 DV; 3 composite; 1 PC	1 audio
	Panasonic PT-61LCX70 MSRP: \$1,995.95 SKU 8396023	LCD	61 inches	39.2x56.4x19 inches; 74.9 pounds	720p	3 HDMI; 2 component; 3 composite; 1 S-Video	2 audio

* without stand

Digital Camera Extravaganza

Let The Shutterbug Madness Begin



Remember the pre-digital camera days when becoming a “serious” photographer seemed attainable only to those with the means to buy an expensive 35mm film camera, as well as the patience and resources to learn how to properly use it? And that’s not even mentioning the devotion and stamina it took to labor in a chemical-ridden darkroom for hours developing negatives and producing prints?

Today, becoming a “serious” photographer still requires some moxie and know-how, but even if your aspirations are to just print a few flavorful family portraits occasionally or snap non-blurry action shots of Junior at his next soccer game, there are plenty of options available that don’t require spending your last dime. A digital camera such as the midpriced 10.1MP Olympus Stylus 1010 (\$299.99; www.olympusamerica.com), for example, packs enough megapixels to print quality 8- x 10-inch or larger prints, as well as provide 7X optical zoom to focus on objects from a respectable distance, 1/2,000th shutter speed to capture action shots, seven ISO settings to match variable lighting situations, a Face Detection autofocus setting, in-camera Panorama Mode, built-in image-stabilizing technology to ward off blurring, video captures, and dozens of quickly accessible shooting modes (Landscape, Sunset, Fireworks, Beach & Snow, Underwater, etc.).

Beyond snapping photos, enhancing, displaying, sharing, and printing them from the confines of home isn’t an overly expensive endeavor today. Free and inexpensive photo-editing software can crop, resize, enhance, and add filters to shots, while online photo-sharing Web sites can easily get photos into mass circulation with family, friends, and fellow photo lovers. Additionally, scads of color photo printers, such as the Canon Pixma iP4500 (\$129.99; www.usa.canon.com), can

No matter your photographic skill level, there's a camera to match your ability.

output quality prints suitable for traditional frames, while digital photo frames, such as the Kodak EasyShare EX811 (\$199.95; www.kodak.com), can show off your work by less conventional means.

On the following pages, we'll talk about the types of digital cameras that are ideally suited to photographers at varying skill levels. We've also gathered accessories that facilitate photo taking, including memory cards that store shots, tripods that let you take properly exposed shots in low light, batteries that give cameras oomph, software that controls shots and adds touches of creative flair, printers that output the final product, and cases and bags that protect the camera and tote everything around. (See "Must-Have Camera Accessories" on page 32.) Further, we've provided camera buying tips; information to know before buying; and comparison charts featuring digicams (see "Which Compact Camera Is Right For You" on page 45), D-SLRs (see "Which D-SLR Is Right For You" on page 46), and camcorders (see "Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You" on page 47), that give you an idea of what's available at Best Buy.

A Camera For Every Photographer

No matter your photographic skill level, there's a camera to match your ability. For newcomers to digital cameras, this most likely means starting with a compact model that provides automatic focusing, as well as auto adjustments to white balance, shutter speed, and aperture settings. The 7.1MP Nikon Coolpix L14 (\$129.95; www.nikonusa.com), for example, not only includes an automatic focusing lens, but it also provides a face-priority function that keeps faces sharply focused, a D-Lighting feature to eliminate red-eye in photo subjects, and ample megapixels to print quality 8x10 prints. Arguably a better aspect of this camera is that it's easy enough for novices to use straight away but builds in worthwhile extras to gradually grow into and develop burgeoning skills. (See "Compact Cameras" on page 28 for more information.)

At the other end of the scale are the increasingly popular (and affordable) D-SLR cameras, which provide automatic settings

Olympus Stylus 1010
\$299.99 • www.olympusamerica.com



but also give photographers control over conceivably every shooting variable. One draw of D-SLRs for shooters with high skill levels is the ability to swap lens (macro, telephoto, and wide angle) to adapt to different shooting situations. Acquiring this control will cost you more, but D-SLRs are among the best buys of any hardware-related product today in terms of what you get for your cash. Although you'll find D-SLRs priced at \$3,000 and more, for \$549.95, the Nikon D40 gives you a travel-friendly 6.1MP model with 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 ED II lens, up to a 1600 ISO setting, 1/4,000th shutter speed, image-stabilizing technology, six manual white balance modes, and other advanced features. (See "Make The Jump To A Digital SLR Camera" on page 30 for more information.)

Choices, Choices, Choices

Even if you're a remarkably discerning buyer who sweats over every buying consideration, the vast numbers of styles, sizes, shapes, and prices that digicams come in today mean you're practically assured of finding a model that's ideally suited for you. Chances are one or two of the cameras on the following pages will even catch your eye. **FG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

Compact Cameras

Take The Guesswork Out Of Buying The Right Camera

An essential part of any home photography studio is the right digital camera. Although D-SLRs are more advanced cameras, they can be too much, depending on the type of photographs you plan to take and the amount of photographic experience you have. With the many cameras available today, you can find a fairly advanced camera in a highly portable size.

When setting up your studio, you'll want a flexible camera. Don't try to find a camera that does everything; instead, look for one with the features you're most likely to use. The list below is a guide to some of the most important criteria for choosing the right camera.

The Right Camera

Optical zoom. Zoom refers to how many times you can enlarge or "zoom in" on a scene. Optical zoom is true zoom. Digital zoom, however, is an emulated zoom. It's what happens when you magnify an image on your computer monitor. It gets larger, but you lose some quality in the process.

If you take close-ups of flowers or capture your cat's funny expressions, you don't need much zoom; 3X or 4X is sufficient. On the other hand, if you photograph wild birds in your backyard, powerful zoom, such as 10X, is essential. When looking for a camera's zoom, focus on optical zoom. Optical zoom is one of the most important specs when shopping for a compact digital camera with which you have limited manual control. Whereas D-SLRs support add-on lenses, most compact models have no (or limited) add-on options. To zoom in enough to get the shots you want, select a camera with sufficient zoom capabilities for the photos you plan to take.

Megapixels. The number of megapixels is less important today because most digital cameras have higher resolutions than you really need. Megapixels relate to a camera's resolution. For example, an 8MP camera has 8 megapixels or 8 million pixels. The number of pixels that make up an image determines the image's resolution. As resolution increases, an image captures

more detail and can be enlarged to a greater size without losing significant on-screen or print quality.

A 4MP camera can produce a high-quality 8x10 print; however, you might want more megapixels if the camera has a low optical zoom factor. If you buy a camera with 5MP or 6MP, you can crop an image and still have enough image data (pixels) left to print an 8x10 print. This is sufficient for most users, but if you plan to print photos larger than 8x10 (or if you want the freedom to crop images while maintaining image quality), select a camera with more megapixels.



Shutter speed. Shutter speed is another important camera spec, but it's typically overlooked. To take action shots of your kids at sports practice or riding their bikes, look for a camera with a fast shutter speed, such as 1/2,500 or 1/3,200. This lets the camera "freeze" the action so your pictures aren't blurry.

Battery type. Some cameras use proprietary batteries (most commonly Li-Ion battery packs), which tend to last longer between charges than AA batteries. On the other hand, buying replacement batteries is trickier. Although you can find replacement proprietary batteries at Best Buy, if you're sight-seeing at a national park, you may not find a spare battery. Standard AA batteries generally require replacement more often than proprietary batteries, but it's easier to find AA replacements in a pinch.

When you shop for a digital camera, consider your future photography needs.

Priority and manual modes. When you shop for a digital camera, consider your future photography needs. Some digital cameras have few manual controls, which will limit your options later. Ensure that your camera will grow with you by selecting one with auto modes, such as **shutter priority** (in which you set the shutter speed, and the camera automatically adjusts the aperture accordingly), **aperture priority** (in which you set the aperture, and the camera automatically adjusts the shutter speed), and **full manual** (in which you have full control over both settings). Learn about how your camera works by experimenting with shutter- and aperture-priority modes. Once you've mastered those, you'll appreciate the flexibility that manual mode provides.

So Many Choices

There are so many digital cameras available that you may find it hard to narrow your choices. However, by keeping your needs in mind, the decision can be easier, and by making the right camera selection now, you'll be able to use your camera and enjoy your photography hobby for years to come. **PG**

BY KYLEE DICKEY



Different Cameras For Different People

The camera you select depends on what type of photos you take. Below are some examples of what features are best for different people.

Busy parent. The frantic life of a parent requires a camera that's easy to use, small enough to carry everywhere, and rugged. Look for a camera with a metal body, such as the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-W120 (\$199.99; www.sonystyle.com), to protect it from the family's hectic lifestyle. Choose a camera that focuses quickly (so important moments aren't missed) and handles indoor and outdoor shots well. Optical zoom is not as much of a concern because most times the child will be nearby.

Sports enthusiast. The sports enthusiast needs a camera with sufficient optical zoom to get in close to the action. For example, Canon's PowerShot S5 IS (\$399.99; www.powershot.com) has a 12X optical zoom and built-in IS (image stabilization). The

camera needs a fast shutter speed to stop the action on the field or court. And finally, if the sports enthusiast will take photos at indoor events, find a camera with a wide aperture range so enough light gets through to properly expose indoor photos. A slower shutter speed will blur action photos.

Traveler. The traveler has many of the same needs as the busy parent: a rugged, portable camera. However, optical zoom is important to the traveler because the camera must be able to zoom in for photographs of landmarks or anything else the traveler might encounter. A camera such as the Canon G9 (\$499.99; www.canon.com), with its antiscratch body, 12.1MP, and 6X optical zoom, is a good choice. Travelers who want to experiment with manual controls and take pictures in an uncompressed, RAW format for big prints that remain clear and detailed will also appreciate the G9. ●

Make The Jump To A Digital SLR Camera

What To Consider Before You Buy



If you're serious about photography and the quality of your photos, you need a digital SLR camera. Compact cameras may take photos that look quite good, but D-SLRs are the clear winners when it comes to quality and creative flexibility.

The reason comes down mainly to size. Although D-SLRs are less convenient than cameras that are sleek enough to slip into your pocket, their bulk gives them advantages that compacts may never have: D-SLRs use bigger image sensors, which means visually cleaner processing of image data. As well, a compact camera's miniature lens won't have the same optical quality and precision as an D-SLR lens many times its size.

Features To Look For

Before buying a D-SLR, the first thing you should ask yourself is how you plan to use it. Your answer will determine the features that are most important to factor into your decision. Here are a few to start with.

Lens and its focal length. This is your No. 1 decision. If, for example, landscapes are your passion, you'll need a good wide-angle lens. If you're planning to snap your kids singing and dancing onstage or excelling on the sports field, you'll need a lens with strong telephoto performance—say, 200mm or better.

Image stabilization. Whether in the camera or the lens, this will help you take clear handheld shots in lower light, with longer exposures, or at greater telephoto ranges than you would otherwise be able to shoot.

Burst mode. If you're into action photos, the quicker the camera shoots, the better your odds for a keeper. And Nikon's D300 (\$1,799.95, body only; www.nikonusa.com) will deliver, shooting an impressive 6 frames per second.

Ergonomics and performance. Buying a camera without a hands-on evaluation is a gamble. If it doesn't feel comfortable, using it may never become second nature. Also, how responsive is the autofocus? How quickly can you focus manually? How easy is it to change the settings you may need to adjust while shooting, such as white balance? Are these readily accessible via buttons, or do you have to dig through a menu to find them?

A Camera That Grows With You

If you're migrating from a compact camera, you may start out using your D-SLR's auto mode, but after you're comfortable handling it, you'll eventually move onto its deeper controls. So, check out features such as the flexibility of its focus options, metering choices, bracketing, and so on.

Think of your camera as the centerpiece of a system that can expand with your expertise and interests, starting with additional lenses. Look into how extensive a line of lenses your potential camera's manufacturer offers or see what's available from third-party makers, such as Tamron (www.tamron.com). But remember: Compatibility means more than simply ensuring that the lens fits the camera body. The lens and body

also need to communicate electronically so your settings and readout are accurate.

And if you like the idea of hands-off operation—let's say, when you're posing in the photo, too—go for a model that's compatible with an optional infrared remote control.

Step Right Up

If compact digital cameras with fully automatic controls leave you wanting more, it's time to graduate to a D-SLR. In addition to better photo quality, it will keep you learning and your creativity growing for years to come. **PC**

BY BRIAN HODGE

Focus On The Lens

Many D-SLR buyers never look past the basic bundle that may be available for their model: the camera body and a starter lens (often known as a kit lens). A kit lens is usually a general-purpose zoom lens that covers a range of focal lengths from wide-angle to telephoto.

However, a kit lens is often an inexpensive, entry-level piece, included with the camera body for a nominal increase in the price—sometimes as little as \$100. It will certainly produce an image, but the quality won't measure up to what a more expensive lens could give you. With pricier lenses, the glass has sharper optical precision; they're also better built, using more metal and less plastic than inexpensive, entry-level lenses.

Therefore, you may want to consider buying

the camera body, forgoing the kit lens, and selecting a better lens a la carte that covers roughly the same focal length range or more. For instance, after asking yourself how you plan to use the camera, you may decide it makes more sense to invest upfront in a lens with a greater telephoto range.

Then again, some manufacturers have begun to see the wisdom of offering body-lens combos that include higher-quality lenses. For example, Canon has paired its EOS 5D (\$2,499.99 body only, \$3,299.99 bundle; www.usa.canon.com) with the EF 24-105 f/4 L IS, an excellent and versatile lens. Separately, this lens lists for \$1,249.99, but when you buy the Canon body-lens combo, you'll save roughly \$500. **●**

Think of your camera as the
centerpiece of a system
that can expand with your expertise
and interests, starting with
additional lenses.



Must-Have Camera Accessories

Don't Leave Home Without Them

D

igital-camera accessories may not turn you or your camera into a fashionista, but they will make photography easier, more efficient, and even more fun. We're not promising award-winning photos, but having tools that expand your camera's abilities will help you capture better images. Here are a few extras everyone should have in her gear bag.

BY THEANO NIKITAS

Keep It Steady

A tripod is necessary in low light or at night. In low light, your digital camera switches to a slow shutter speed, and the slightest movement blurs the image when the shutter speed is slow.

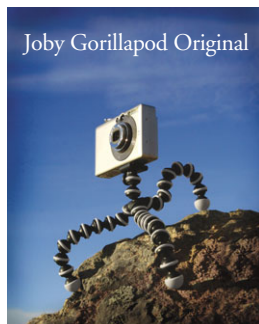
The Joby Gorillapod (\$24.95 Original, \$44.95 SLR; www.joby.com) stands alone or wraps around a fence rail or tree limb. The Original model holds compact cameras (9.7 ounces or less), and the SLR model handles 1.75 pounds.

To support D-SLRs with long lenses or hold a camera steady at eye-level, try the Dynex 60" Universal Tripod with Pan Head (\$39.99; www.bestbuy.com). It extends to 60 inches and holds most digital cameras and camcorders.

If you don't need a full tripod, try the Manfrotto Modo Monopod 790B (\$35; www.bogenimaging.us)—a one-legged tripod, which supports 2.2 pounds and extends to 57.3 inches. It weighs only 0.6 pounds, so it's easy to carry.

Remember The Cards

It's good to have at least two memory cards so you won't run out of space when taking photos. Stock up on extra cards for vacation, especially if you can't offload the images.



Kingston 4GB SDHC

Many digital cameras use SD cards. SDHC (Secure Digital High Capacity; 4GB and above) cards, such as the Kingston 4GB SDHC (\$69.99; www.kingston.com), work with most newer SD cameras, but check your camera's specifications to make sure.

Card speed is important when choosing memory. For example, SanDisk makes an Extreme III 2GB CompactFlash card (\$49.99; www.sandisk.com), which reads and writes image data far faster than its Ultra II 2GB CompactFlash card (\$39.99). You won't notice a difference if you use a high-speed card with a compact camera, but D-SLRs and mega-zoom cameras generally benefit from a fast card. Capacity is the key reason for buying a media card, so check your camera's users guide to see how many images will fit on different capacity cards in order to make the right choice.

Stow & Protect

Although camera bags must be serviceable, there's no reason they can't be fashionable, too. Check out the Kodak Fashion Camera Clutch in pink (\$24.99; www.kodak.com). It fits most small Kodak cameras, comes with shoulder and wrist straps, and has pockets for your media cards.



Kodak Pink Clutch

Case Logic (www.caselogic.com) makes sturdy, nice-looking cases, and we especially like the EVA Compact Camera Case (\$12.99). It's small enough to slip into a purse, but you can also carry it by its wrist strap. The case is molded, so your camera is well-protected, too.

Lowepro's Rezo 30 pouch (\$14.99; www.lowepro.com) is a convenient and attractive way to carry your camera either over your shoulder or attached to your belt. A front pocket holds memory cards, batteries, or other accessories, and the bag is made from weatherproof material.

Put 'Em On Paper

What's the point of having treasured photos if you can't display them on a wall or in an album? Desktop printers offer large print sizes. Standard-sized printers, such as the Canon Pixma iP4500 (\$129.99; www.usa.canon.com), print photos up to 8.5x11. You can also print directly from your media card with some models, such as the HP Photosmart D7460 (\$149.99; www.hp.com), and select which images you'd like to print from a large, 3.5-inch touchscreen.



Canon Pixma iP4500

Wide-format models, such as the Epson Stylus Photo 1400 (\$299.99; www.epson.com), let you output prints up to 13x19. With the Epson Stylus Photo 1400, you can also print directly on CDs/DVDs.

Desktop inkjet printers use either dye-based inks or, like the wide-format Canon Pixma Pro 9500 (\$849.99), pigment inks. Dye-based inks have an edge over pigment inks in terms of color vibrancy, but prints made with pigment inks generally last longer. But either ink set will give you prints that look sharp and resist fading for quite some time as long as you protect them in an album or under glass.

If you have limited space or want to print only snapshot-sized photos, look at a compact photo printer, such as the Epson PictureMate Dash (\$99.99) and the unusually designed HP Photosmart A627 (\$149.99; www.hp.com). Both can print up to 4x6 photos, but the A627 can print up to 5x7, as well. They print directly from media cards and feature screens so you can choose and edit your images without a



HP Photosmart printer

computer. With an optional adapter, you can even beam photos from a Bluetooth-equipped phone.

Turn Imperfection Into Perfection

As much as we'd like our pictures to be perfect straight from the camera, most photographs can use a little tweaking.

If you have a Mac, you may already have iLife '08 (\$79; www.apple.com), which includes iPhoto. iPhoto is easy to use and has a myriad of tools for correcting and sorting/storing your digital images.



Apple iLife

and easy to use.

Another program to look at, although it's Windows-only, is Corel's Paint Shop Pro X2 (\$99.99; www.corel.com). The latest version has features that let you get creative by adding frames, quickly turn your photos into black-and-white images, and more.

Digital Camera's Heart

All digital cameras are powered by batteries, whether a rechargeable proprietary battery or a set of AA batteries. If yours has a rechargeable, proprietary battery and its charge runs down at a family reunion or on vacation, your only option is to plug in the charger and wait a couple of hours for it to recharge. Look for an affordable third-party rechargeable battery, such as the Digipower BP-CN4L (\$39.99; www.mizco.com), which is for Canon compact cameras.



Digipower
BP-CN4L

If your camera takes AA batteries, they're probably alkalines, which don't last long in a digital camera because of how much power digicams use. Instead, pick up a four-pack of AA Energizer e2 Lithium batteries (\$9.99; www.energizer.com); they're designed to last a lot longer than alkalines.

Adding a single accessory to your digital toolbox will enhance your picture-taking experience. When you're using your camera, keep this list of accessories in mind and see which ones best fit with when, where, and how you use your digital camera. **FC**

Digital Imaging Glossary

A

re you confused about what that lingo on camera boxes means? Use this glossary to help decode the world of digital photography.

aperture—An iris-like diaphragm opening that can expand and contract the lens to let you control the amount of light that passes through it, thus affecting the exposure. The term “f-stop” is used interchangeably with aperture.

burst mode—Where the camera can take several shots (up to 10) consecutively, usually in one second.

CCD—A charge-coupled device is the camera’s image-sensing component. It converts light into energy that can be stored as digital data on your camera.

depth of field—The area that is in focus in front of and beyond the subject of your photo.

digital zoom—Magnifying an image digitally by cropping it and filling in the rest with interpolated pixels, thus degrading the quality. Even if the numbers are impressive, never choose a camera based on digital zoom.

f-stop—See aperture. Smaller f-stop numbers mean a wider lens opening; larger f-stop numbers mean a narrower lens opening.

ISO—For digital cameras, the ISO setting measures the sensitivity to light (similar to how it does with film). Digital camera ISO settings, such as 200, 400, etc., should capture photos as if one were using film with such a speed. Lower ISO settings mean you need more light, and vice versa.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—The screen on the back of the camera that lets you see a live-action view of your subject, your photo after you’ve taken it, or both.

lens—The apparatus on the front of the camera that gathers and directs light toward the imaging device. In a digital camera, the lens probably has both an optical and digital zoom.

megapixel—Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher the megapixel count, the higher the resolution and the more you can crop, which means (in general) better-quality photos.

memory card—Because digital cameras have very little onboard memory, they need a flash memory card to store more than a dozen or so images. The type of memory card you need depends on the make and model of your camera. Some of the most popular memory cards are Secure Digital, MultiMediaCard, Compact Flash, and Sony Memory Sticks. In general, memory cards are quite small.

noise—The small statistical variations among pixels that lead to (usually) minor distortions of color in a photo.

optical zoom—The camera’s mechanical ability to move the lens physically closer to your subject. With optical zoom, the higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the better. When choosing a camera, always consider the optical zoom, not the digital zoom. Digital zoom artificially adds pixels.



resolution—The number of pixels in an image. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo. Resolution is measured in a proportion (such as 2,272 x 1,704).

shutter—A mechanism that opens and closes to allow light to pass through the lens. You can usually control the camera’s shutter speed.

shutter speed—The length of time a camera’s shutter is open to let light through the lens to hit the sensor, which records the image. This is expressed in fractions of a second: For instance, a shutter speed of 1/250 means that the shutter speed is 1/250th of a second.

viewfinder—The small opening in the camera that the user looks through to frame a shot. Some digital cameras don’t have a viewfinder and rely on using an LCD to frame the shot.

white balance—Light levels are adjusted electronically to ensure whites in a certain environment are pure, leading to more lifelike colors. White balance can usually be manually adjusted, too.

Digital Camera

Slim, Smart Performance



Olympus FE-340

MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 8670841 (silver)

www.olympusamerica.com

Quick Overview

The Olympus FE-340 is an ultra-compact digital camera with a host of features, including a sharp 5x zoom lens, superb capture resolution up to 8MP, and an impressive 2.7-inch high-resolution color LCD. With innovative technologies such as Face Detection, Digital Image Stabilization, and the Smile Shot mode, you're sure to get a crisp, clear, vibrant shot every time.

Perfect For

The FE-340 is ideal for anyone looking for an ultra-slim camera that offers a powerful zoom, easy-to-use features, and amazing image quality at an affordable price.

Outstanding Benefits

- **8MP CCD.** Capture high-resolution images up to 3,264 x 2,448 pixels.
- **5x optical/4x digital zoom.** Get close with the compact Olympus Lens.
- **Face Detection.** Tracks faces and automatically focuses and optimizes exposure for sharp, brilliant portrait pictures.
- **Digital Image Stabilization.** Minimizes blur for the perfect shot.
- **AVI Movie with sound.** Shoot and share movies with sound on the big screen or on the Web.
- **Colors.** Available in silver (as shown), blue, red, pink, and black.

Coollest Feature

Smile Shot. Capture every spontaneous smile! The camera can detect a smile on your subject's face and automatically fire off three consecutive shots so you never miss a smile.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

OLYMPUS

Digital Camera Compact, Stylish & Advanced



Olympus Stylus 840

MSRP: \$249.99

SKU: 8670869 (blue)

www.olympusamerica.com

Quick Overview

The Olympus Stylus 840 provides the perfect blend of style and technology. It packs advanced features into a sleek, compact frame available in blue (as shown), silver, black, and pink. An attractive package of features, including 5x optical zoom, Digital Image Stabilization, Face Detection, and Shadow Adjustment Technology helps users capture clear, crisp memories.

Perfect For

The Stylus 840 is perfect for users looking for a compact digital camera with advanced features and plenty of shooting modes.

Outstanding Benefits

- **8MP CCD.** Capture high-resolution images up to 3,248 x 2,436 pixels.
- **5x optical/5.6x digital zoom.** Get close with the compact Olympus Lens.
- **2.7-inch HyperCrystal™ LCD.** This large LCD features an extra-wide viewing angle and anti-glare technology for easier composing and shooting.
- **Dual Image Stabilization.** Sensor-Shift Image Stabilization combines with high ISO sensitivity and fast shutter speeds to capture crisp, clear images in any situation.
- **Face Detection.** Tracks faces and automatically focuses and optimizes exposure for sharp, brilliant portrait pictures.

Coollest Feature

Shadow Adjustment Technology. Brings out the details in shadows and captures scenes exactly as you see them.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Digital Camera Every Shade Of Individuality



PowerShot SD1100 IS Digital ELPH

MSRP: \$249.99

SKU: 8696182

www.powershot.com

Quick Overview

Color communicates. It introduces you before you say a word, making the PowerShot SD1100 IS Digital ELPH the ultimate image-maker. Five fashion-forward hues expressed in aluminum add a new burst of excitement to Canon's Perpetual Curve design. Of course, a camera that brings out the best in you also delivers Canon's most advanced technology features. Call it style with substance, for a new level of picture-taking pleasure.

Perfect For

The person who wants her camera and its pictures to have the same individuality she does.

Outstanding Benefits

- Refined and stylish 8MP Digital ELPH with 3X optical zoom and Optical Image Stabilizer.
- Enhanced Canon Face Detection Technology automatically sets focus, exposure, flash, and white balance for greater shooting freedom.
- 2.5-inch PureColor LCD II for bright, accurate color with better viewing from wide angles.
- Print/Share Button for easy direct printing and downloading, plus ID Photo Print and Movie Print with select PIXMA Photo Printers and SELPHY Compact Photo Printers.

Cooliest Feature

Motion Detection Technology automatically reduces blur by calculating subject movement and selecting ideal ISO settings.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Kodak

Digital Camera A Pocket Full Of Style



Kodak EasyShare M763

MSRP: \$129.95

SKU: 8721724 (red)

www.kodak.com

Quick Overview

Small meets powerful meets cool—that's the Kodak EasyShare M763 digital camera. So compact, it fits in just about any purse or pocket; so advanced, you can take pictures everyone will be talking about—and all for a price that fits your budget.

Perfect For

The M763 is for users who want a camera that is stylish and portable and that offers several advanced features, all at an affordable price.

Outstanding Benefits

- **Sharpen it.** HD still capture lets you view your pictures in high definition on an HDTV with the optional HDTV dock
- **Find it.** For great shots of friends and family, face detection locates faces and automatically adjusts the camera settings
- **Steady it.** Digital image stabilization reduces blur caused by camera shake or subject movement
- **Record it.** Advanced video features include audio capture, editing, and prints from video
- **Get it.** Capture details in low-light conditions and fast-action situations with high ISO (up to 1600)

Coollest Feature

With **sound tagging**, you can record names, dates, or events to go along with your pictures.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Digital Camera

Powerful Technology In A Small Package



Fujifilm FinePix Z100fd

MSRP: \$229.99

SKU: 8669363 (silver)

www.fujifilmusa.com/Z100fd



Quick Overview

The FinePix Z100fd is a stylish, ultra-compact camera that's ready for a night on the town. It's packed with the latest technologies to deliver great pictures under even the toughest shooting conditions.

Perfect For

The Z100fd is the perfect merge of fashion and function, letting you accessorize to look great while capturing great pictures.

Outstanding Benefits

- 8MP, 1/2.5-inch CCD captures sharp, clear, high-resolution images up to 3,264 x 2,448 pixels
- Fujinon 5X optical zoom and 5.1X digital zoom
- Scratch-resistant, reinforced 2.7-inch LCD with 230,000-pixel resolution
- Dual image stabilization combines mechanical stabilization with high ISO sensitivity for total antiblur protection
- In playback mode, run slideshows, zoom in, or create portraits of the detected faces in the picture
- Capture movies with sound at 30fps

Coollest Feature

Detecting up to 10 faces virtually instantly, **face detection** not only sets the proper focus and exposure but also removes red-eye automatically.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

CASIO®

Digital Camera

Make Your Movies As Portable As Your Music



Casio Exilim EX-S10

MSRP: \$249

SKU: 8719014

www.exilim.casio.com

Quick Overview

With the Exilim EX-S10, Casio sought to produce a camera with a high-resolution CCD and a very bright Super Clear LCD featuring a high contrast ratio and a wide field of view. Both the picture-taking and image-viewing capabilities of this camera have been improved, and its design presence has been enhanced by keeping it as slim as possible.

Perfect For

The person who is looking for quality digital camera features in an ultra-slim package.

Outstanding Benefits

- Show the world your videos faster than ever with the YouTube capture mode.
- Super Clear LCD lets you see your shots more clearly than ever, even in bright sunlight.
- Auto Shutter Detect Smile will shoot automatically when subjects are smiling.
- Casio Exilim will automatically analyze the scene and apply face-detection, adjust focus and exposure, and find the perfect setting.

Coollest Feature

Upload all your favorite moments to your **iPod or iPhone** in seconds so you can show them off anytime, anywhere. Drag & Drop videos into iTunes to sync with iPod or iPhone. No conversion, no complications, no worries.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Camcorder Limitless Shooting Possibilities



Canon VIXIA HV30

MSRP: \$1,099

SKU: 8732696

www.usa.canon.com

Quick Overview

Discerning videographers will find their demands more than met with this first-rate camcorder. With astonishing High Definition detail and color reproduction, fast and accurate autofocus, a big multi-angle LCD with true color, the ability to shoot in 24p Cinema and 30p Progressive Modes, and much more, shooting is as boundless as your own imagination.

Perfect For

Those who want to play video directly from their camcorder on an HDTV.

Outstanding Benefits

- Genuine Canon 10X HD Video Lens.
- Canon 2.96MP Full HD CMOS Image Sensor for razor sharp detail.
- DIGIC DV II Image Processor for superior imaging and fast response.
- Shoot steady with Canon's SuperRange Optical Image Stabilizer.
- Instant AF focusing system delivers critical HD focus.

Coollest Feature

For the budding filmmaker, the Canon VIXIA HV30 comes with 24P **Cinema mode**, which gives your home movies a Hollywood flair.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



Camcorder Slim, Lightweight, Stylish



JVC GZ-MG330H Everio G Series Hard Disk Camcorder

MSRP: \$449.99

SKUs: 8696324 (Ruby Red)

8696342 (Sapphire Blue)

8671403 (Diamond Silver)

www.jvc.com

Quick Overview

With image stabilization that gives you crisp, clear footage, a Gigabrid Engine for true-to-life images, and a built-in 30GB hard drive, the JVC GZ-MG330H ensures you'll make the most of your next home movie or family vacation video shoot. Aside from great features such as these, it's also available in three bright colors.

Perfect For

The JVC GZ-MG330H is packed with a ton of features in a small, lightweight body. It's ideal for those who want to shoot actively without lugging around a large, clunky camcorder.

Outstanding Benefits

- A 30GB built-in hard drive that offers up to 37.5 hours of recording time
- 2.7-inch widescreen color LCD with Laser Touch Control
- 35X optical and 800X digital zoom
- Image stabilization minimizes camera shake while shooting video
- NightAlive technology gives you full-color video in low-light settings
- Twenty premade picture titles help give your videos a professional look, without the use of a PC

Coollest Feature

Laser Touch Control. The LCD scroll bar and buttons are touch-sensitive, so you just glide your finger up or down to choose menu items while a blue light follows your movements. For even easier operation, the auto backlight control adjusts the brightness of the LCD for the best view indoors or out.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

Kodak ESP-3

All-In-One Printer

Print More & Pay Less



Kodak ESP 3 All-in-One Printer

MSRP: \$129.99

SKU: 8485052

www.kodak.com

Quick Overview

Kodak has combined quality, ease of use, and affordable inks to create the Kodak ESP 3 All-In-One Printer. It offers high-quality picture and document output, while allowing you to save up to 50% on everything you print when compared to similar consumer inkjet printers. With the ESP 3, you can print, copy, and scan more for less.

Perfect For

With the ESP 3, users of all levels can take advantage of the easy-to-use print, copy, and scanning functions.

Outstanding Benefits

- Two-cartridge, six-ink system—black cartridge \$9.99 and five-ink color cartridge \$14.99
- One-touch color copy without PC—ideal for copying documents or reprinting old photos
- Sleek design blends into your existing home décor
- Memory card slots allow printing and transferring of photos from most card types
- Print lab-quality 4- x 6-inch borderless photos in as little as 30 seconds that last a lifetime

Coollest Feature

Facial retouch software editing feature reduces the appearance of skin blemishes and enhances facial features.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

AUDIOVOX®

Digital Message Center

Keep It All In One Place



Audiovox Audio homebase™ Message Center and Digital Picture Frame

MSRP: \$149.99

SKU: 8755297

www.audiovox.com

Quick Overviews

Audiovox's Audio homebase™ Message Center takes an ordinary digital photo frame and cranks it up a notch. With plenty of white board space to post notes, a built-in microphone for audio messages, and even a small camera that can capture video (video version only), your family will be able to keep organized and in touch.

Perfect For

With so many messaging options, the Audiovox homebase™ is ideal for families that need to keep track of daily and upcoming events. And, with fun video and audio capabilities, everyone in the family will want to stay organized.

Outstanding Benefits

- Built-in calendar with tagging capabilities lets you attach audio or video memos to specific dates
- 7-inch color LCD with 16:9 aspect ratio
- Display up to 100 photos with the included 512MB of memory or as many as 500 photos with additional memory cards
- White board with dry erase marker and attached Post-it® notes for quick notes and messages
- Designed to mount either on a refrigerator, wall mount, or stand on a counter

Coollest Feature







Anyone can post a message quickly and without jotting something down by using the Audiovox homebase's™ **audio/video capabilities.**

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse


Which Compact Camera Is Best For You?

If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com), and we also explain what these features mean.

What It Means		Resolution	Optical zoom	Memory card	LCD size	Battery life	ISO
		In general, more pixels mean bigger, clearer prints	Moves the lens physically closer to your subject	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the display on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	The higher the ISO, the greater the ability to take photos in low-light situations
	Canon PowerShot SD1100 IS MSRP: \$249.99 SKU 8696182 <i>See p. 37</i>	8MP	4X	SD/SDHC/MMC	2.5 inches	240 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
	Casio Exilim EX-S10 MSRP: \$249.99 SKU \$249.99 <i>See p. 40</i>	10.1MP	3X	SD/SDHC/MMC	2.7 inches	280 shots	Auto; Manual: 50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
	Fuji FinePix Z100fd MSRP: \$229.99 SKU 8669363 <i>See p. 39</i>	8MP	5X	xD-Picture Card/SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
	Kodak EasyShare M763 MSRP: \$129.95 SKU 8721724 <i>See p. 38</i>	7.2MP	3X	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	250 to 300 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
	Olympus FE-340 MSRP: \$199.99 SKU 8670841 <i>See p. 35</i>	8MP	5X	xD-Picture Card	2.7 inches	240 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200
	Olympus Stylus 840 MSRP: \$249.99 SKU 8670869 <i>See p. 36</i>	8MP	5X	xD-Picture Card/micro-SD	2.7 inches	190 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-FS55 MSRP: \$249.95 SKU 8738789	10.1MP	4X	xD-Picture Card/micro-SD	2.5 inches	310 shots	Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T300 MSRP: \$399.99 SKU 8696182	10.1MP	5X	Memory Stick Duo/PRO Duo	3.5 inches	260 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200







Which D-SLR Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs from select cameras available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

What It Means		Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
		Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measure of display on back of camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action
	Canon EOS Rebel XSi MSRP: \$899.99 SKU N/A	12.2MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS	3.5fps up to 53 shots	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Canon EOS 5D MSRP: \$2,499.99 SKU 8268162	12.8MP	2.5 inches	100 to 1600	EF 24-105mm f/4 L IS USM lens	3fps up to 60 shots	30 to 1/8,000 seconds
	Canon EOS 40D MSRP: \$1,499.99 SKU 8472244	10.1MP	3 inches	100 to 3200	EF 28-135mm f/3.5-5.6 IS	6.5fps up to 75 shots	30 to 1/8,000 seconds
	Olympus Evolt E-510 MSRP: \$799 SKU 8359046	10MP	2.5 inches	100 to 1600	14-42mm f/3.5- f/5.6 ED; 40-150mm f/4- f/5.6 ED	3fps to card capacity	60 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Olympus E-3 MSRP: \$1,699 SKU 8682776	10.1MP	2.5 inches	100 to 3200	N/A (body only)	5fps to card capacity	60 to 1/8,000 seconds
	Nikon D300 MSRP: \$1,799.95 SKU 8624036	12.3MP	3 inches	200 to 3200	N/A (body only)	6fps to card capacity; 8fps with optional battery pack	30 to 1/8,000 seconds
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-L1K MSRP: \$1,499.95 SKU 7951736	7.5MP	2.5 inches	100 to 1600	14-50mm f/2.8-3.5 Leica D VARIO-EL-MARIT	2 or 3fps up to 6 shots	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	Sony Alpha DSLR-A200 MSRP: \$699.99 SKU 8704208	10.2MP	2.7 inches	100 to 3200	DT 18-70mm f3.5-5.6	3fps to card capacity	30 to 1/4,000 seconds

Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com), you can determine which format and product best fit your style.

		LCD screen size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution
What It Means		Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular cam-corder can utilize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not included unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal resolution; the higher the number, the greater the detail
MiniDV	 JVC GR-D850 MSRP: \$229.99 SKU 8671332	2.7 inches	35X; 800X	SP LP	None	N/A	520
	 JVC GZ-MG330H MSRP: \$449.99 SKU 8671403	2.7 inches	35X; 800X	ULTRA FINE FINE NORM ECO	microSD/ micro SDHC	0.3MP	520
Hard Drive	 Sony DCR-SR220 MSRP: \$849 SKU 8679799	2.7 inches	15X; 180X	SP	Memory Stick Duo/ PRO Duo	4MP	480
	 Canon DC320 MSRP: \$369 SKU 8696636	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	XP SP LP	SD	1.07MP	1,080
High Definition	 JVC GZ-HD7 MSRP: \$1,699.95 SKU 8225066	2.8 inches	10X; 200X	HQ-VBR LT-VBR CBR	SD/SDHC	2.1MP	1,080
	 Samsung SC-HMX10 MSRP: \$799 SKU 8566866	2.7 inches	10X; 100X	ULTRA FINE FINE NORM ECO	MMC/SD	0.3MP	520
	 Panasonic HDC-HS9 MSRP: \$999.95 SKU 8696627	2.7 inches	10X; 700X	HA HG HX HE	SD/SDHC	1.6MP	1,080
	 Canon VIXIA HV30 MSRP: \$999 SKU 8714974	2.7 inches	10X; 200X	SP LP	miniSD	2.96MP	1,080

The Best Computer For You

Decisions, Decisions

It's an old debate: Should your next computer be portable or stationary?

Desktop computers give you more bang for the buck and can be easily repaired. And when you're desktop shopping, you can buy anything from a cheap, Web-access terminal to a

full-fledged gaming or home-theater PC. On the other hand, many of us would rather not be stuck in the same chair every time we log on.

You can buy all but the most powerful desktop configurations as laptops, although high-performance gaming or "desktop replacement" notebooks may be

heavy enough to be more luggable than portable. On the other hand, there are "thin and light" notebooks and UMPCs (ultra-mobile PCs) that eschew bulky optical drives and fast processors in favor of long battery life and tiny dimensions. Here are some factors to help you decide. **FG**

BY MARTY SEMS

Desktops

Advantages:

- Most are easy to upgrade, and parts are plentiful
- If you install a new, high-performance part, you can add extra cooling fans or a stronger power supply to support it
- They're cheaper than laptops with similar specs

Disadvantages:

- A desktop basically ties you to a particular location
- They're bulky, they have lots of cables, and some are noisy

Summary:

If you want the ultimate in power and flexibility, a desktop PC is the way to go. You can replace virtually any part you want (as long as the computer's

OS supports the new part), and you don't need to worry about battery life. On the other hand, you can't take a desktop to a coffee house or to the beach.

Models of note:

Gateway GM5664

(\$1,149.99; www.gateway.com)

This video-entertainment PC can play BD (Blu-ray Disc) and HD DVD movies (compatible monitor sold separately), offers 1TB DVR capability, and features a quad-core AMD Phenom processor

Velocity Micro ProMagix Q6600 Desktop E2240

(\$1,999.99; www.velocitymicro.com)

This gaming computer packs an Nvidia 8800 GTS 320MB graphics card, fast RAID 0 hard drive performance, and quad-core Intel Core 2 Q6600 processing



Apple Mac Pro 2.8GHz

(\$2,799; www.apple.com)

For the utmost performance with the Mac OS X Leopard operating system, look no further than this 8-core, dual Intel Xeon 5400 beast

Compaq Presario E2160 SR5350F

(\$459.99; www.shopping.hp.com)

Value shoppers who already own a monitor can go online with this model, as well as burn CDs and DVDs with LightScribe

Perfect for: Homebodies, office workers, gamers, video editors, engineers, artists



Laptops

Advantages:

- Portability—you can literally take your computing experience anywhere
- Most have built-in wireless network adapters, so you can use Wi-Fi hot-spots to go online wherever you are

Disadvantages:

- Their keyboards are straight (not ergonomic) and sometimes cramped
- Parts are limited, and you generally can only upgrade a few items
- The more powerful the notebook, the shorter its battery life between charges
- Heat buildup can be a problem with certain models

Summary:

Sweet freedom! As long as you have battery power or an AC outlet nearby, you

can compute anywhere, anytime. And a laptop is the ultimate portable music and video jukebox, especially if it has a widescreen so that movies won't look so letterboxed. In the negative column are the high prices; the lack of expandability; the limited number of ports and drives; the risk of theft; and the tradeoffs among performance, battery life, heat, and cost.

Models of note:

Toshiba Satellite U305-S2808

(\$949.99 [U305-S2804]; www.toshiba-direct.com)

A thin-and-light notebook with a 13.3-inch widescreen, a DVD burner, and Intel Core 2 Duo power

Sony VAIO VGN-AR630E

(\$1,599.99; www.sonymstyle.com)

A big, 17-inch widescreen adds bulk, but



you'll have dual-core power plus Blu-ray Disc and DVD playback anywhere

Gateway T-1625

(\$749.99; www.gateway.com)

Offering portable computing at a budget price, this dual-core model features a 14.1-inch screen and a 250GB hard drive

Apple MacBook Pro 17-inch

(\$2,799; www.apple.com)

Upscale and powerful, this stylish notebook offers a 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo and Mac OS X Leopard

Perfect for: People on the go, students, business travelers

It Takes A Tuner

To Turn Your PC Into A TV & Entertainment Hub

Pinnacle Systems PCTV HD Card
\$79.99 • www.pinnaclesys.com



favorite show regardless of what time or channel it's on. Some tuners, such as Pinnacle Systems' PCTV HD Card (\$79.99; www.pinnaclesys.com), even let you listen to and record FM radio broadcasts. (A USB version is coming soon; see page 59 for more information.)

Hardware Prerequisites

Before you buy a tuner, make sure your PC has plenty of available hard drive space. See "The DVR Dilemma," in this article to determine how much space you'll need to store your recordings. You'll need a current CPU (preferably dual-core), system memory (at least 512MB for Windows XP and 2GB for Vista), and a DVD burner for archiving your TV recordings. Also, the tuner needs to be connected directly to your TV source, whether that's cable, satellite, or an antenna for OTA (over-the-air) broadcasts.

To enjoy the tuner's DVR capabilities on your TV, connect your PC to the TV through a wired or wireless network and a media extender, such as an Xbox 360 (\$349.99; www.xbox.com). If you go the wireless route, make sure your router is compatible with your media extender. Further, to stream HD content from your PC to a media extender, you'll need to use 802.11n (currently known as Draft N) equipment, such as router and adapters, to make sure you have the bandwidth to handle HD content.

Another way to transport your recorded shows is to connect a tuner-equipped PC directly to your TV, but you'll need to make sure your video card or tuner

Not long ago, the PC was little more than an overgrown calculator. Today, your PC excels at all things media—letting you play, convert, edit, upload, and download your photos, videos, and music almost anywhere your heart desires. But to fully transform your PC into an all-out entertainment hub, you'll need a TV tuner.

Sure, a tuner lets you watch TV while playing games of Freecell and browsing Yahoo! News, but that's just scratching the surface of a tuner's capabilities. A tuner turns your PC into a fully functional DVR, which lets you record, pause, and rewind live TV. With a tuner, you can also set your PC to record a program or sporting event you might otherwise miss or archive all episodes of your new

card and your TV have the appropriate audio/video inputs and outputs to support this configuration.

Once set up, you can navigate the Windows Media Center from the comfort of your sofa. To really complete the experience, we recommend Logitech's Advanced Universal Harmony for Xbox 360 (\$99.99; www.logitech.com).

Software Necessities

If you're running Windows XP Media Center Edition, Vista Home Premium, or Vista Ultimate, then you can use the Windows Media Center application to handle your TV tasks. Windows Media Center even has its own EPG (electronic program guide) that lets you view and schedule recordings up to two weeks in advance. As long as the tuner supports your respective OS, you can use the Windows Media Center setup wizard to configure your system.

If your computer runs Vista Business, Vista Basic, Windows XP, Linux, or Mac OS, you'll need to install the software that came with your tuner (assuming your particular OS supports the tuner). Many tuners also include an EPG, but some require an online subscription to a third-party EPG service or provider.

DVD authoring software lets you convert TV recordings and burn them to disc for

The DVR Dilemma

Microsoft's Windows Media Center lets you record shows at different quality settings ranging from Fair to Best. Shows recorded as Best quality recordings will look and sound superior to shows recorded on low-quality settings, but they'll also take up lots of hard drive space. Consult the chart to determine how many hours of recordings at varying quality settings you can fit on your hard drive.

Quality vs. Hard Drive Space

Disk Space	Fair	Good	Better	Best
100GB	67 hours	57 hours	40 hours	30 hours
200GB	133 hours	114 hours	80 hours	60 hours
500GB	333 hours	285 hours	200 hours	150 hours

viewing in your DVD player. Roxio's Easy Media Creator 10 Suite (\$99.99; www.roxio.com) lets you edit, convert, and burn the recorded content and helps you sync it to portable media devices.

Choose The Right Tuner

Depending on the model you buy, tuners feature one of a variety of interface types. PCI- and PCI Express-based tuners need to be installed inside the PC and require a free peripheral slot on your computer's motherboard. If your computer is a couple of years old or older, choose a PCI-based tuner. Many newer computers will have a spare PCI Express slot available for a tuner. If you're unsure and don't want to crack open your PC's case, or if you have a notebook PC, then an external, USB-based tuner may be

your ideal choice. These devices plug into an available USB port on your PC.

The most basic tuners (\$30 to \$60) typically let you watch and record SD (standard definition) analog TV broadcasts. These ATSC tuners also commonly have a single tuner chip capable of handling one broadcast channel at a time. Some inexpensive tuners rely on software to record shows, which can bog down a midrange PC. We generally recommend tuners with hardware-based encoding capabilities. Windows Media Center requires a tuner with onboard encoding hardware, so if a tuner has a WinXP Media Center Edition or Vista Compatible logo, you know it'll work with the OS' built-in software.

For between \$70 and \$150, you can often find tuners that are capable of recording both SD and HD broadcasts. Some of the more full-featured tuners also include dual-tuner chips, which let you record two shows simultaneously or change channels and watch live TV while recording another channel. Some tuners also include a remote control that lets you channel surf, navigate your saved content, and adjust the volume without ever touching your computer. Pinnacle's PCTV HD Card only has a single tuner chip, but it does handle SD and HD broadcasts and includes a remote. **PG**

Pinnacle Systems PCTV HD Card
\$79.99 • www.pinnaclesys.com



BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

Notebooks

5 Must-Have Accessories

A laptop is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what you need to go along with your shiny new purchase. We've rounded up five of our favorite accessories that every laptop owner should add to her shopping list. **FC**

BY JOY MARTIN

1 Laptops aren't cheap, so you'll want to protect yours. After splurging on a laptop, the first thing you need to consider is how you're going to protect it.



You bought a laptop for its portability, so it's important to buy a good case that can protect it and keep it mobile. Cases are available in a multitude of styles and colors, so you're sure to find one that meets your needs. We like the Swiss Gear Granada Wheeled Computer Case (\$99.99; www.wengerna.com), which has wheels and a telescoping handle for easy mobility, accommodates 15- and 17-inch widescreens, and has room to store all of your accessories and paperwork.

2 A cordless mouse is easier to work with than a pointing stick. Although laptops are well-suited for working on the go, the pointing stick (that little nub in the middle of the keyboard that lets you navigate the pointer) and/or touchpad that replace your desktop's mouse can be hard to manipulate. If you prefer a mouse, check out Logitech's VX Nano Cordless Laser Mouse for Notebooks (\$69.99; www.logitech.com). The sleek design makes it easy to transport, and the USB receiver is small enough to leave plugged in, so your mouse is ready when you are.



3 Laptop power adapters help protect your notebook PC from spikes in power.



Plugging your desktop's power cord into a surge protector was probably a no-brainer. But have you taken the same precaution to protect your laptop? Surge protectors ensure that the electrical current running to the device(s) attached to it doesn't exceed acceptable levels. A sudden spike in electricity can destroy a laptop, so taking the time to plug in to one every time is worth the few seconds it takes. Surge protectors designed specifically for laptops, such as the Kensington Notebook Power Adapter (\$139.99; us.kensington.com), are compact, making them easy to pack away in your laptop bag.

4 Portable USB hubs let you connect a few extra peripherals while you're out of the office. USB ports let you connect all sorts of electronic goodies to your computer, but what if you have more gadgets than ports? A USB hub, such as Dynex's 4-Port USB 2.0 Hub (\$19.99; www.bestbuy.com), is an affordable way to ensure you can connect all of your peripherals. In addition to giving you more ports, cords to items such as a digital camera or music player can be left plugged in on your desk, so they are ready to go next time you use your laptop.



5 An extra battery lets you keep working on the road when you're far away from your recharger.




We love laptops for their portability—they let us work without being tethered to a desk. But that flexibility is limited to how long the battery holds a charge. Having an extra battery on hand that's powered and ready to go gives you the ability to work longer, without having to find an outlet. Batteries vary from laptop to laptop, but with your model number in hand, you can find a replacement for any brand.



Computers

Top 5 Things To Know

No matter what your skill level, there are a few basics you should know in order to enjoy the most productive, safest computing experience possible. Here are our Top 5. 

BY JENNIE SCHLUETER

1 Prevent data loss.

If you're in the market for a new computer, it's smart to know exactly what extras you're going to want or need to go with your big purchase. Besides the keyboard, mouse, monitor, and tower, you'll want to get a good surge protector. This will keep your new investment safe from damage as a result of a power outage or electrical surge. Even better than a surge protector, a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) has a backup battery that will keep power flowing smoothly for a few minutes after an outage. This will give you time to save your work and properly shut down the computer to avoid data loss.

2 Protect yourself.

If you plan to go online, antivirus and firewall software are two must-haves for computer protection. There are many third-party products available for both antivirus and firewall protection, but you may elect to use built-in programs such as Windows XP's firewall or Vista's Windows Security Center. (Built-in antivirus is not available with WinXP or Vista.) Regardless of what protective software you decide to use, make sure you keep it enabled and set to the product's recommended settings. The trick to ensuring your firewall and antivirus do their jobs is that you have to keep them up-to-date. Most programs have a method for allowing you to manually (or your computer to automatically) check for updates so the software can detect new viruses, scams, and other threats.

3 Perform backups.

Even if you have been vigilant about performing routine maintenance, you'll likely experience a computer crash at some point. Whether it's a problem with your operating system or a burned-out hardware component, unless you have backed up the information, you may not be able to retrieve it—ever. Avoid this headache by scheduling regular backups. Once you've backed up your files and/or hard drive to an external drive, copy important files to a DVD and further secure your important data by storing it at an offsite location.

4 Consult an expert.

If you have a computer problem you can't fix, find help. Clicking through error messages or putting up with slow processing speeds is annoying and can be a sign of a larger problem. Before you lose your valuable time and data, get a professional to straighten things out. There are many options, including Geek Squad (www.bestbuy.com/geeksquad). This 24-hour technology support task force offers carry-in, phone, and onsite support. The squad also makes house calls.

5 Budget for extras.

Shopping for new computers these days is pretty tempting. It's easy to find a system for around \$500, but don't let that low number fool you. Remember that owning a computer comes with some additional expenses. For starters, some computers at the sub-\$500 price point don't include a monitor, so you'll need to remember to include one in your budget. Also, if you don't already have a printer or USB cable for your printer, you'll need to include this, too. Another thing to consider is your monthly ISP fee, and looking into whether you'll have to pay for a high-speed modem and installation or if they're included. Other extras could include productivity software such as Microsoft Office (you won't get this with a sub-\$500 PC, either), security software subscription fees, printer ink and paper, and a digital camera.



Desktop For Geeks, By Geeks



Velocity Micro ProMagix E2055 Desktop

MSRP: \$1,499.99

SKU: 8700293

www.velocitymicro.com

Quick Overview

Terminate your virtual enemies with Velocity Micro's ProMagix E2055 Desktop. This PC boasts a powerful ATI™ Radeon™ X3850 graphics card and 3GB of memory that will give you ultra-smooth visuals and lightning-fast performance. And, with a spacious 500GB hard drive, this desktop provides ample storage for all of your digital media needs.

Perfect For

Whether you're surfing the Web or annihilating an alien army, the ProMagix E2055 Desktop works for anyone who needs a rig that provides the best performance for a great price.

Outstanding Benefits

- Aluminum case and side panel window for superior thermals and whisper-quiet operation
- New—Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor E8500, dual 3.16GHz cores, 6MB L2 Cache
- 256MB ATI™ Radeon™ X3850 graphics card with DirectX 10 support
- 3GB Corsair™ DDR2 PC6400 DDR2-800 memory
- 500GB 7,200rpm SATA hard drive
- Six USB 2.0 ports (two in front) and two FireWire ports (one in front)
- Genuine Microsoft® Windows® Vista Home Premium

Cooler Feature

With an **ATI Radeon X3850 graphics with DirectX 10 support**, you'll experience flawless visuals, making it perfect for gaming.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Desktop Delivers The “w00t” Factor



Gateway FX7024

MSRP: \$979.99

SKU: 8700328

www.gateway.com

Quick Overview

Powerful Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT graphics with DirectX 10 and quad-core technology make the most of your favorite games, while a double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW drive and a 15-in-1 digital media reader give this desktop the ability to organize, display, and create media with ease. Labelflash technology even allows you to create your own customized media discs.

Perfect For

Cutting through intensive games and 3D apps and out-of-the-box syncing with your HD gear.

Outstanding Benefits

- Intel® Core™ 2 Quad Q6600 processor with four processing cores, 1,066MHz frontside bus, 4MB x 2 L2 cache, and 2.4GHz processor speed per core
- 3GB PC2-5300 DDR2 memory for multitasking power, expandable to 8GB
- 500GB Serial ATA II hard drive with 16MB cache (7,200rpm)
- Nvidia® GeForce® 8800 GT graphics (factory overclocked)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium (32-bit)
- 15-in-1 media card reader
- 18X DVD±R/RW SuperMulti drive featuring Labelflash™

Coollest Feature

You get a high-quality gaming experience without a high-end price.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



Notebook

Performance, Design & Astonishing Functionality



Dell XPS M1530 Laptop

MSRP: \$1,349.99

SKU: 8682446 (RED)

www.dell.com



Quick Overview

With a next-generation processor and powerful Wireless-N networking, this laptop ensures you'll stay connected to the Web at Wi-Fi hot-spots. Archive important data or watch a DVD movie using the double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW drive.

Perfect For

Those who want a powerful yet attractive multimedia machine.

Outstanding Benefits

- 1.66GHz Intel® Core™ 2 Duo mobile processor
- 15.4-inch widescreen WXGA (1,280 x 800) display with TrueLife™
- Hi-def display with 800 lines of resolution
- 2GB DDR2 memory for multitasking power, expandable to 4GB
- 160GB Serial ATA hard drive (5,400rpm)
- Biometric fingerprint scanner for added security
- HDMI output lets you easily connect to an external hi-def display
- Integrated 2-mp Web cam and enhanced-capture microphone
- Built-in Dell 1505 Wireless-N mini-card

Coollest Feature

When you purchase Dell and Windows (PRODUCT) RED™ signature products, a portion of the sales will go to the Global Fund to help fight AIDS in Africa. It's that easy, and there's no extra cost to you.

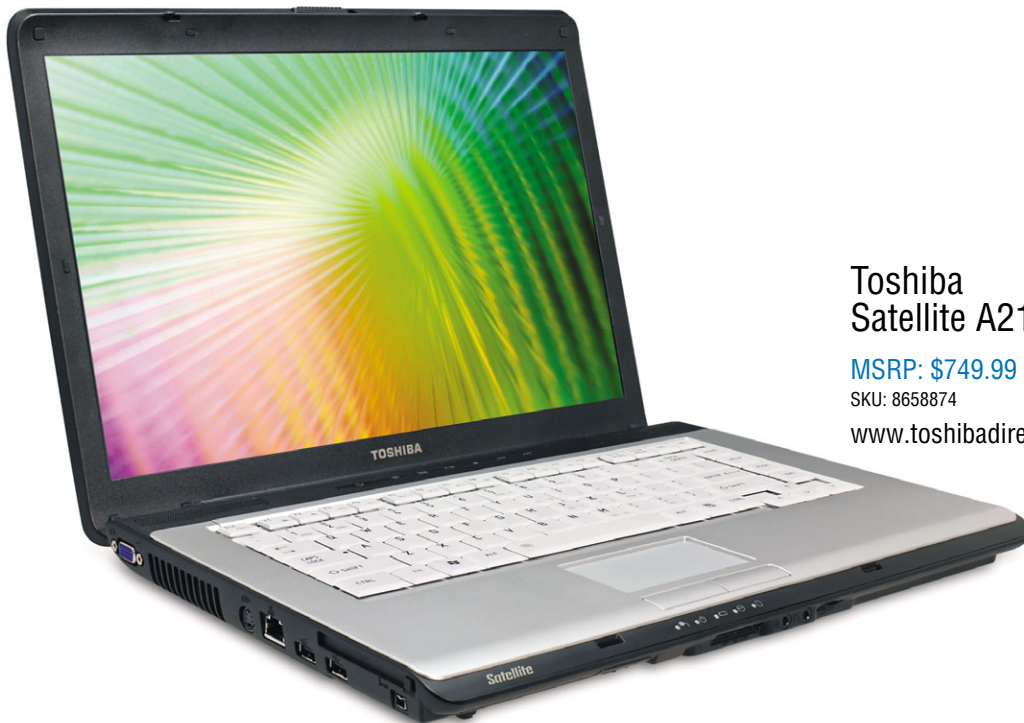
Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

TOSHIBA
Leading Innovation >>>

Notebook

Feature-packed, Cutting-edge & Practical



Toshiba
Satellite A215-S5818

MSRP: \$749.99

SKU: 8658874

www.toshibadirect.com

Quick Overview

With the Satellite A215-S5818, users will experience solid performance, high-definition graphics, smooth video playback, increased wireless network performance, and enhanced energy efficiency for extended battery life as a result of AMD's Turion 64 X2 dual-core mobile technology.

Perfect For

This is a great notebook for students, mobile professionals, and the everyday casual user.

Outstanding Benefits

- The combination of AMD's innovative dual-core CPU and Microsoft's Windows Vista operating system provides increased performance for today's applications
- 15.4-inch diagonal widescreen TruBrite® display—capable of supporting 720p high-definition content and delivering brighter colors, enhanced details, and greater overall image sharpness

Coollest Feature

The **integrated Wi-Fi** empowers users to wirelessly download files and video and remain connected to the Internet wherever wireless connectivity is available.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Multimedia Networking

Watch Your Movies & TV From Afar



Sling Media
Slingbox SOLO
Model: SB260-100

MSRP: \$179.99

SKU: 8548832

www.slingmedia.com

Quick Overview

The Slingbox SOLO allows you to watch and control your favorite TV source—including your HD content—from anywhere in the world on your laptop, cell phone, or PDA. So now you can watch your DVR, digital cable, satellite receiver, or DVD player wherever you see fit. With the Slingbox SOLO, you can watch your favorite TV shows and sporting events from anywhere.

Perfect For

The traveler who wants to watch his or her favorite television program from anywhere in the world.

Outstanding Benefits

- **HD compatible.** Connects to any of your high-definition devices.
- **Single input.** Connects one high-definition or standard-definition device such as your DVR, digital cable set-top box, or satellite receiver.
- **SlingPlayer software.** SlingPlayer works hand-in-hand with the hardware inside the Slingbox to bring your entire living room TV viewing experience to your laptop, desktop, or mobile device.
- **No monthly fees.** Watch and control your TV and its programming on your compatible cell phone, PDA, laptop, or desktop with no monthly subscription fee.

Coollest Feature

Watch your HDTV anywhere on your laptop or mobile phone with no monthly fees (cell phone service charges may apply).

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



TV Tuner Card

Enjoy HD & SDTV On Your PC



Pinnacle PCTV HD Pro Stick

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 8040817

www.pinnaclesys.com

Quick Overview

Watching HDTV on your PC has never been easier. With Pinnacle PCTV HD Pro Stick, you can watch free HD or SDTV on your laptop or desktop PC. You can also take advantage of free HD digital cable, also known as ClearQAM. PCTV HD Pro Stick features FM radio and instantly turns your PC into a personal digital video recorder.

Perfect For

Pinnacle's PCTV HD Pro Stick is perfect for those who want to watch television in high definition and listen to FM radio on their PC. Users can even record shows to hard drive or direct to DVD.

Outstanding Benefits

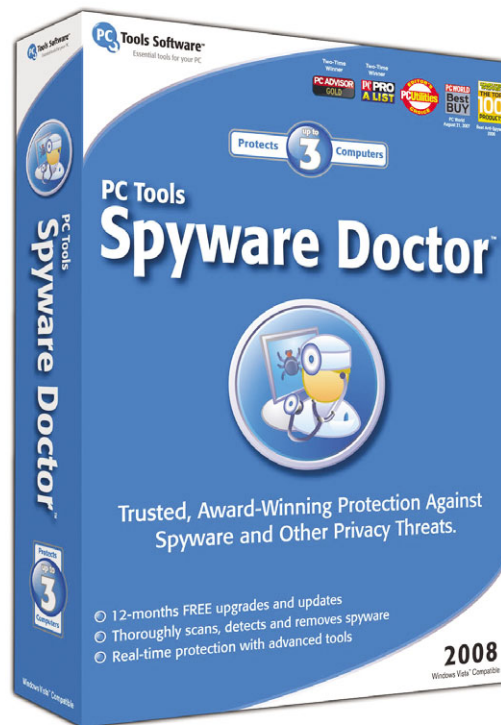
- Watch SD and free HDTV on your PC—no service fees
- Includes remote control and high-gain, telescopic antenna
- Ultra-sensitive reception of both analog and digital TV signals
- Supports both over-the-air (ATSC) and unencrypted digital cable (ClearQAM) HDTV
- Stereo sound for both digital and analog TV; stereo FM reception
- Turns your PC into a PVR with Timeshift (pause, rewind TV)
- Certified for Windows Vista™

Coollest Feature

You don't need to have an HDTV in your living room or pay for high definition channels. Just plug this into your laptop or desktop PC and **enjoy free HDTV** (where available).

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

Internet Security & Monitoring Protection You Can Trust



PC Tools Spyware Doctor

MSRP: \$29.95

SKU: 8520326

www.pctools.com

Quick Overview

Security software is an absolute necessity for anyone who's on the Internet. Malicious programs such as spyware, adware, and viruses put your computer and your identity at risk every day. By using PC Tools Spyware Doctor, you can be confident that you have the most advanced threat protection, recommended by computer and security experts globally and trusted by millions of users every day.

Perfect For

Spyware Doctor is for those who want to keep their computer free of malware with an easy-to-use interface and award-winning technology.

Outstanding Benefits

- Award-winning software recommended by experts worldwide.
- Prevents malicious programs from stealing personal information, degrading system performance, and damaging your important files.
- Frequent automatic updates ensure your protection is up-to-date.
- Built-in behavioral technology automatically keeps you safe from the newest online threats.
- OnGuard real-time protection blocks threats before they harm your PC.
- Easy to install and use with immediate automatic protection.
- Free 24/7 phone support for all customers.

Coollest Feature

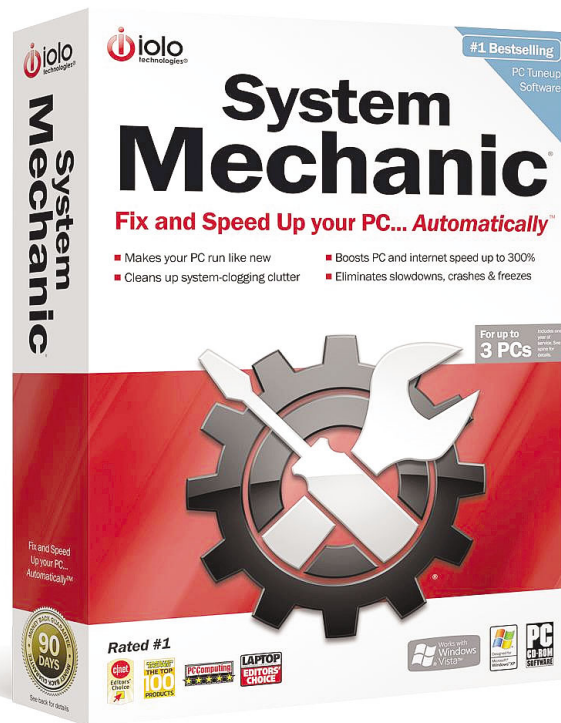
Currently recognized by industry experts as the best product available to remove spyware and keep it off your system, while still being one of the easiest to use.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



Internet Security & Monitoring

Make Your PC Run Like New



iolo System Mechanic

MSRP: \$49.95

SKU: 8648951

www.iolo.com

Quick Overview

Don't suffer the aggravation of mysterious PC crashes, freezes, and slowdowns. Studies show that 98% of PC problems are caused by faulty settings, clutter, and fragmentation that are the result of normal PC use. Rely on the power of System Mechanic to automatically find and repair errors and clean out clutter. This software will keep your PC operating smoothly, reliably, and up to 300% faster.

Perfect For

System Mechanic is for anybody who uses a PC or has ever had a slow computer; its user-friendly interface is for beginners and experts alike.

Outstanding Benefits

- Fix security vulnerabilities, block annoying Internet pop-up ads, and stop unwanted or dangerous changes to system configuration.
- Improve your gaming experience and optimize your PC to play the latest high-performance games at maximum speeds.
- Fix PC problems yourself and prevent them from happening with automated tools for custom tasks.

Coollest Feature

The **easy-to-understand user interface and one-click fix** is great for novice users, while technical users can get under the hood and fix things one at a time with over 40 tools.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



Video Transfer

Transfer Video To Your Mobile Device



Pinnacle Video Transfer

MSRP: \$129.99

SKU: 8719032

www.pinnaclesys.com

Quick Overview

Recording videos has never been easier. With Pinnacle Video Transfer, you can transfer videos, such as TV shows and movies, to your iPod®, PSP™, USB 2.0 hard drive, or USB flash drive without using a computer.

Perfect For

Pinnacle's Video Transfer appeals to a wide range of users, whether you're looking to watch TV and movies on the go, record game play from your video game console, archive home movies, or transfer vacation videos simply when traveling. Pinnacle's Video Transfer provides the tools and ease of use you need.

Outstanding Benefits

- PC-less capture of video to an iPod®, PSP™, USB 2.0 hard drive, or USB flash drive
- One-touch start/stop recording from any analog video source including a TV, DVD player, PVR, camcorder, set-top box, or gaming console
- Easy connections via S-Video, composite video, and stereo audio
- Great compression with Direct H.264 encoding
- Three quality levels from 320 x 240 512kbps to 720 x 480 1.5mbps (full D1)
- Compact size makes it perfect for traveling
- Recharges iPod® battery during video transfer (cable not included)

Coollest Feature

You **don't need a PC or Mac** to use Pinnacle Video Transfer. It transfers video directly from the source to the storage device.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

NETGEAR®

Router

More Channels, Less Interference, Better Connections



NETGEAR
RangeMax Dual Band
Wireless-N Router
Model: WNDR3300

MSRP: \$129.99

SKU: 8669915

www.netgear.com

Quick Overview

The NETGEAR RangeMax Dual Band Wireless-N Router (WNDR3300) delivers the highest Wi-Fi performance for today's Wireless-N notebooks and dual-band adapters. It also provides simultaneous support for legacy 802.11g devices as well as clients based on 2.4GHz or 5GHz Wireless-N and new computers with built-in support for 802.11n draft 2.0 single- and dual-band wireless.

Perfect For

Specifically for the consumer who wants the best possible wireless network connectivity. Designed to deliver the fastest speeds, longest ranges, and most reliable connections.

Outstanding Benefits

- Surf, email, stream HD video, online game, make Internet phone calls—simultaneously.
- Eight internal smart antennas improve wireless coverage.
- More wireless channels, less interference, and better connections using dual-band Wireless-N.
- Use with a RangeMax Dual Band Wireless-N Adapter and boost your performance and range.
- Adjusts to the needs of Internet, voice, video, and gaming applications.
- Works with older Wireless-G and newest Wireless-N devices at the same time.

Coollest Feature

"Push 'N' Connect" wirelessly connects new devices easily and securely .

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse



Cassette Deck Digitize Tapes With Ease



ION Audio TAPE 2 PC

MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 8546004

www.ion-audio.com

Quick Overview

To create MP3s from your tape collection, just plug TAPE 2 PC into your computer, install the software, and start converting your music. Easily transfer your music to an iPod or other MP3 player. When you're finished archiving, TAPE 2 PC can connect to your stereo system using standard RCA cables for convenient cassette listening. Upgrading your favorite recordings has never been easier.

Perfect For

TAPE 2 PC is for music lovers who want to easily convert their beloved cassettes to CD or digital format.

Outstanding Benefits

- Quickly transfer your cassettes to MP3 format on your PC
- Dual-dubbing cassette deck
- USB plug-and-play design—no drivers needed
- EZ Tape Converter 2 software (PC) and EZ Audio Converter (Mac) for hassle-free recording
- Audacity software included for cleaning up worn recordings
- Includes USB cable, stereo RCA cable, software CD, and manual

Coollest Feature









EZ Tape Converter 2 software automatically inputs album, artist, and song information, making it easy to convert tapes directly to iTunes and saving you a ton of time.

Available at www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse









Which Notebook Computer Is Best For You?

A notebook computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several models available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Optical drives	Screen size	Media card reader
	What It Means	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Drives that can read and write CD-Rs, DVD-RWs, or HD discs	The diagonal measurement of the notebook's screen	A slot that lets you use media cards without a separate peripheral
	Dell XPS M1530 MSRP: \$1,349.99 SKU 8682446	Windows Vista Ultimate	1.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T5450	160GB; 2GB DDR2	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	15.4 inches	Yes
	Gateway M-6750 MSRP: \$849.99 SKU 8651069	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.67GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T5450	250GB; 3GB DDR2	SuperMulti DVD±RW/C D-RW with LabelFlash	15.4 inches	Yes
	Lenovo IdeaPad Y510 MSRP: Starts at \$799 SKU 8696271	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T5550	250GB; 2GB PC2-5300	Double-layer CD-R/DVD-R	15.4 inches	Yes
	HP Pavilion dv6780se MSRP: \$1,149.99 SKU 8669504	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.67GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T5450	250GB; 3GB DDR2	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW with LightScribe	15.4 inches	Yes
	Asus G2S-X3 MSRP: \$1,849.99 SKU 8617721	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	250GB; 2GB DDR2	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	17 inches	Yes
	Sony VGN-CR320E/R MSRP: \$1,299 SKU 8674623	Windows Vista Home Premium	2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	250GB; 2GB PC2-5300 DDR2	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	14.1 inches	Yes
	Toshiba A215-S5818 MSRP: \$749.99 SKU 8658874	Windows Vista Home Premium	2GHz AMD Turion 64 x2	160GB; 2GB PC2-5300 DDR2 SDRAM	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	15.4 inches	Yes
	Apple MacBook Pro MB063LL/B MSRP: \$1,499 SKU 8622564	Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard	2.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	160GB; 1GB PC2-5300 DDR2 SDRAM	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	13.3 inches	No

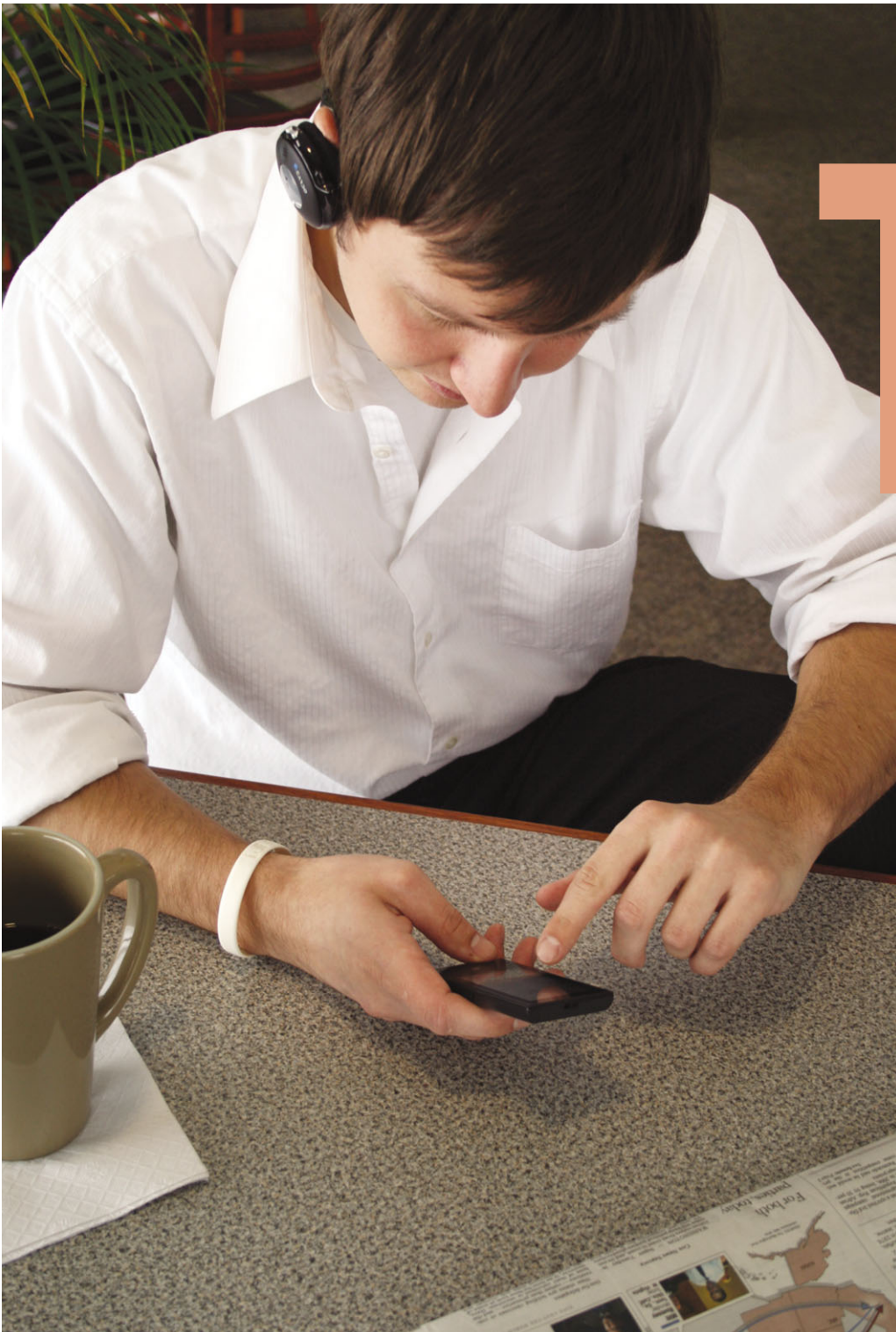
Which Desktop PC Is Right For You?

When you shop for a desktop PC, you'll see lots of similar deals. The comparison chart below shows how subtle—yet important—the differences can be. If you can't find one of these on Best Buy's Web site (www.bestbuy.com), visit or call your local Best Buy store, and it should be available there.

		Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Optical drives	Operating system	Graphics card	Ports
	What It Means	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Drives that can read and write CD-Rs, DVD-RWs, or HD discs	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Controls the quality of your video and images	Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals
	Apple MA878LL MSRP: \$1,799 SKU 8480271	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	320GB; 1GB	Dual-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard	ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro	5 USB 2.0; 2 FireWire
	Gateway FX7024 MSRP: \$979.99 SKU 8700328	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	500GB; 3GB	SuperMulti DVD±RW/CD-RW with Labelflash	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT	8 USB; 2 FireWire; 2 DVI; 1 S-Video; 2 PS/2
	Gateway One GZ7220 MSRP: \$1,799.99 SKU 8552906	2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T7250	500GB; 3GB	SuperMulti DVD±RW/CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT	7 USB 2.0; 1 FireWire; 1 S-Video
	Velocity Micro ProMagix E8500 MSRP: \$1,499.99 SKU 8700293	3.13GHz Intel Core Duo	500GB; 3GB	Double layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon X3850	8 USB 2.0; 2 FireWire; 1 S-Video
	Sony VAIO VGC-LT25E MSRP: \$1,999.99 SKU 8704672	1.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T5450	500GB; 3GB	DVD±RW/CD-RW/BD-R	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 8400M GT	5 USB 2.0; 1 FireWire; 1 S-Video
	Dell XPS One E4500 MSRP: \$1,599.99 SKU 8684596	2.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	250GB; 2GB	DVD±RW/CD-RW	Windows Vista Ultimate	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 3100	6 USB ; 1 FireWire; 1 S-Video
	Dell Inspiron I530B8106 MSRP: \$999.99 SKU 8723394	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	500GB; 3GB	Double layer DVD±RW/CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT	10 USB
	HP Pavilion Elite m9150f MSRP: \$1,159 SKU 8674794	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Quad Q6600	720GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/HD DVD-ROM/CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 8500 GT	6 USB; 2 FireWire; 1 S-Video; 1 HDMI; 1 DVI; 1 TV-out

True Or False

Hit The Right Notes With A Digital Audio Player



To paraphrase Led Zeppelin: The song may remain the same, but DAPs (digital audio players) definitely aren't static in terms of capabilities; manufacturers continually add new features to the mix. In nearly every regard, there's never been a better time than the present to buy a DAP, as there have never been as many compelling functions to put to use. Unfortunately, the vast ground today's music players cover means there's a great deal of room for confusion. The following will help prospective buyers feel less "dazed and confused."

True Or False

A DAP can only play music.

Nothing could be more false. Even low-end DAPs typically include a few functions beyond playing audio. The 1GB Insignia Kix (\$39.99; www.bestbuy.com), for example, offers an FM tuner with 20 presets and supports Audible files, meaning the Kix will play audio books downloaded from Audible.com. Elsewhere, DAPs with LCDs can display photos and play videos, while other players include games, customizable equalizers, DSP (digital signal processing) effects to enhance audio (Rock,

Arena, Jazz, Bass, etc.), voice recorders, contacts and calendar apps, file browsers, and Bluetooth and WiFi wireless abilities. Archos' 160GB 605 WiFi (\$399.99; www.archos.com), for example, can browse Web sites via Wi-Fi networks, record and play back TV programs with an optional DVR Station (\$99.99), and display PDF files.

True Or False

All DAPs now use flash-based storage.

False—although this may be true in coming years. Continually reaching higher storage capacities, flash-based players have several appealing physical advantages over hard drive-based players, such as Apple's 160GB iPod classic (\$349.99; www.apple.com) and Microsoft's 80GB Zune (\$249.99; www.zune.net). These advantages include flash-based players being thinner and lighter than their hard drive-based counterparts, which correspondingly makes them better choices for mobile use, including exercising. Apple's 1GB iPod shuffle (\$49.99), for example, weighs just 0.6 ounces and is roughly matchbook-sized at just 1.1 x 1.6 x 0.4 inches (HxWxD).

True Or False

I can store my entire music collection on a DAP.

Depending on how many CDs and downloads you own, it's entirely possible to store your catalog on one DAP. The 160GB iPod classic is rated to store 40,000 songs ripped at 128Kbps to AAC files, for example. At 15 songs per CD, that's a whopping 2,667 CDs, which would task even an avid audiophile's music vault. If movies are more your thing, the 160GB Archos 605 WiFi is rated to store 200 movies (1:30 each [hours:minutes]) encoded at 1Mbps to MPEG-4 files.

True Or False

I can upgrade my music player's storage after purchase.

True, although this depends strictly on the DAP you buy. Although many DAPs still don't offer this ability, the 2GB Insignia Sport Video MP3 Player (\$89.99) and SanDisk 8GB Sansa View (\$149.99; www.sandisk.com) are two that do via their built-in memory card slots. The Sport Video includes a microSD slot, while the Sansa View's card slot accepts microSD/microSDHC (Secure Digital High Capacity) cards. This functionality means you can transfer videos, photos, and data to the player by plugging a memory card into its slot, thus bypassing connecting the player to your PC.

True Or False

I can use any software to transfer music to an iPod.

False. Although it would greatly simplify matters if manufacturers would create audio players so they were compatible with any music-transfer program, this isn't the case. To transfer music from a Mac or PC to your iPod, you need Apple's iTunes software. Other manufacturers also offer their own music-management software but don't require that you use it to transfer tracks. Samsung's 8GB P2 (\$249.99; www.samsung.com), for example, ships with the company's Media Studio media manager to manage a media library and transfer files to the P2, but P2 owners can also use Windows Media Player, Winamp, Rhapsody's RealPlayer, and other programs to sync songs to the player.

True Or False

All online music stores sell the same songs.

False. Although online music services such as the iTunes Store, Rhapsody,

Amazon.com's Amazon MP3, and others have millions of songs from thousands of artists to choose from, you may not find the same song selections from store to store. Online stores acquire songs primarily through licensing agreements with artists, independent record labels, and the four major record labels: Sony BMG Music Entertainment, Universal Music Group, EMI Group, and Warner Music Group. Acquiring rights from even two of the four major labels can stock a store with millions of songs, but this doesn't mean the store necessarily has the rights to sell a particular band's songs. If you want to buy songs from AC/DC; Garth Brooks; or John, Paul, George, and Ringo at iTunes, for example, you're out of luck for now.

True Or False

Wireless functions in DAPs with built-in Bluetooth and Wi-Fi aren't necessarily the same.

True. Although Insignia's 2GB Sport Video and Samsung's P2 both integrate Bluetooth, for example, the P2 performs more wireless tricks. As with the Sport Video, the P2 can wirelessly stream music to Bluetooth headphones. The P2 can also stream music wirelessly to multiple headsets, transfer files wirelessly, take incoming calls from a paired mobile phone, and more. Further, Samsung has designed the P2 so that its Bluetooth features can be upgraded with firmware updates for continual upgrades. The 80GB Zune's Wi-Fi ability, meanwhile, lets users wirelessly sync music from a PC over a home network, but the Zune doesn't have a full-fledged browser to surf Web sites as Apple's touch and Archos' 605 WiFi do. With the touch and 605 WiFi, for example, users purchase and download songs and movies straight to the player over a Wi-Fi hotspot. **PG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Or Wii?

Why Not All Three?

Gaming Systems Compared

Few decisions are as delicious as choosing a gaming system from among a Microsoft Xbox 360, a Nintendo Wii, or a Sony PlayStation 3. In a perfect world we'd get one of each because they all have must-own exclusives, support must-have features,

and let us enjoy games in ways that consoles of the past simply couldn't deliver. We've broken down the goodies, the gotchas, and the games to help those of you who are forced to make such an agonizing decision. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

Sony PlayStation 3

www.us.playstation.com

\$399.99 (PlayStation 3 40GB); \$499.99 (PlayStation 3 80GB)

► **Cool Things About It:** All of the games are presented in high definition, and the console is finally getting exclusives, such as *Uncharted: Drake's Fortune*, that belong on any gamer's short list. The PlayStation 3 is also a multimedia device that's perfect for listening to music, viewing images, or watching movies. It does an excellent job of upconverting standard DVDs to high definition. The built-in BD (Blu-ray Disc) player is one of the most technically able players available on the market because it can be updated via the Internet to conform to the latest Blu-ray standards.

► **Not-So-Cool Things About It:** The game library is still fairly small relative to that of the Xbox 360, although time should cure that because this console was released later than the 360. The included wireless controller doesn't have rumble capabilities, and the BD player isn't compatible with standard infrared universal remote controls so you have to use the included controller or a Blu-ray Disc Remote Control for PlayStation 3 (\$24.99).

► **Awesome Accessories:** The PlayStation Eye camera (\$39.99) comes with video-editing software and lets players take advantage of innovative new games, such as *The Eye Of Judgment*, which turns real-life cards into in-game playing

pieces. Be sure to get a Blu-ray Disc Remote Control for PlayStation 3 so you don't have to control DVD or BDs with the game controller, and if your HDTV supports HDMI input, use an HDMI cable (any one will do) for the best audio and video quality.

► **Best Games:**
Uncharted: Drake's Fortune; *Rock Band*; *The Orange Box*

► **Perfect For:** Multimedia mavens who want the versatility to watch BD and also have access to the latest games.

► **Bottom Line:** Now that the price has fallen, more games are available, and there are plenty of BD movies to watch, the PlayStation 3 is a veritable bargain for gamers who also want cutting-edge multimedia features.



Nintendo Wii

www.wii.com

\$249.99

► **Cool Things About It:** The motion-sensing controller lets people who don't normally play games get involved in the action and is much more intuitive to learn than is a traditional controller. Nintendo's exclusive games, such as Super Mario Galaxy, have innovative gameplay that takes full advantage of the motion-sensing technology.

► **Not-So-Cool Things About It:** This console doesn't support HD video output and doesn't even play standard DVDs. Because it uses less powerful hardware than the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, the graphic output isn't nearly as detailed or sophisticated.

► **Awesome Accessories:** Get a Classic Controller (\$19.99) so you can easily play all of the great games from the past that are available for download. The Wii Component Video cable (\$29.95) is a must-have for HDTV owners because



it lets the Wii output a 480p progressive-scan signal, which is much sharper, clearer, and more lush than the 480i interlaced signal that the Wii supports out of the box.

► **Best Games:** Super Mario Galaxy; Super Paper Mario; WarioWare: Smooth Moves

► **Perfect For:** Anyone age 3 to 103. Nintendo has always been famous for games that appeal to kids and adults alike, and the Wii excels in this regard. Everyone who sees it begs to play.

► **Bottom Line:** The Wii won't let you show off your new HDTV, but it'll bring a smile to the face of nearly anyone who picks up a controller. The other consoles are great for adults, but the Wii accommodates everyone.

Microsoft Xbox 360

www.xbox.com

\$279.99 (Xbox 360 Arcade); \$349.99 (Xbox 360); \$499.99 (Xbox 360 Elite)

► **Cool Things About It:** Xbox Live delivers a steady stream of downloadable content, arcade games, videos, and other goodies and makes the 360 perfect for multi-player gaming. Every game takes full advantage of your HDTV, and the system's game library is both huge and varied.

► **Not-So-Cool Things About It:** At press time, the 360 doesn't support BD movies. Microsoft recently discontinued production of its HD DVD player but continues to offer standard warranty support on existing devices.

► **Awesome Accessories:** The Xbox Live Vision camera (\$39.99) lets you video chat and put a picture of your face in certain games, and you can use the Xbox 360



Wireless Networking Adapter (\$99.99) to access Live without using wires.

► **Best Games:** BioShock; Rock Band; Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare

► **Perfect For:** Hardcore gamers who want access to all the latest and greatest games; multiplayer junkies looking for the best online experience.

► **Bottom Line:** The Xbox 360 pumps out beautiful graphics and has an enormous library of games, and Xbox Live Arcade is a casual gamer's dream come true. If you don't know what edition to get, take a look at the comparison chart at www.bestbuy.com.

MP3 Players

5 Must-Have Accessories

Nailing down a list of must-have accessories for an MP3 player is tricky. Just because an iPod dock for the kitchen tops your list, for example, doesn't mean it even cracks an avid jogger's Top 5. Ultimately, though, five general categories stand out, although other notable accessories include extra batteries, cleaning kits, and Bluetooth adapters. **FG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

1

Match your earphones to your needs. Sometimes a runner doesn't fare well with earbuds, which fall out due to the constant jostle of running. This is a burden for anyone hoping to get in a good workout. A runner should opt for a headphone that's secure, and in this case, an in-the-ear earbud would be the ideal choice. Headphone styles are numerous and include wired/wireless earbuds, which are perfect for people on the go (students, mass-transit users), and earcups, which can satisfy any audiophile's need to hear minute musical details.

2

Portable speakers and docks are perfect for letting the entire group listen to tunes in open areas. Whether you want to listen to Enya as you take shelter from an April shower or need some musical inspiration as you stow the kitchen dishes, there's no limit to where you can listen to your portable player. Don't let the pair of headphones it came with constrain you, either. Most speakers have a dock to recharge your player's battery. Check your MP3 player manufacturer's Web site for model numbers of available speakers and docks, and you'll likely be able to buy it at Best Buy.



3

Beam the tunes on your portable music player through your car stereo. If you're motoring about in the family van, music players can provide the soundtrack. You'll need an FM transmitter that plays the tunes on your portable music player over your car radio. Connect the transmitter to your player, select a designated frequency on the radio, tune to that same frequency on your transmitter, and listen to music, movies, podcasts, audio-books, etc. Transmitters range from basic to sophisticated models (providing remote controls and visual interfaces), making it easy to find one that suits your needs.



4

Cases can protect your portable music player from scratches, bumps, water, physical drops, and mishaps that can otherwise shorten your player's life. You decided to treat yourself and buy a high-end MP3 player. Because you've already spent so much, it's only right to assume that you have everything you need, right? Not quite. No matter what type of portable music player you own, it's wise to buy a case to protect it in different environments. Cases are relatively inexpensive (around \$20 and up) and can provide a little defense from accidents or normal wear and tear. Because not all cases will work with your player, check the MP3 player manufacturer's Web site or Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com) for cases that are compatible.

5

Armbands can mean the difference between a workout you're proud of vs. one that's constantly interrupted by accidental drops and tugging, tangled cords. Music is a huge exercise motivator. No matter your sport, an armband,



such as DLO's Action Jacket for third-generation Apple iPod (\$29.99; www.dlo.com), which fits around your bicep, generally offers the most stability and comfort. Otherwise, a basic lanyard provides an inexpensive, yet effective, alternative for less strenuous workouts.

MP3 Players

Top 5 Things To Know

Finding the perfect digital music player is all about asking the right questions. Here are the five most important things to keep in mind while shopping, along with the answers you'll want to hear before committing to a particular device.

BY TRACY BAKER

1 Memory capacity.

The capacities listed for most MP3 players are based on low-quality audio recordings, which result in small file sizes. Songs you record at a higher quality, which is probably what you'll listen to most often, will take up more space, so fewer songs will fit on your player. For example, a player can store three times as many songs recorded at 64Kbps as those at 192Kbps, but the sound quality for the 192Kbps tracks is more than three times better than that of the 64Kbps tracks.

Where storage is concerned, there are 8 bits in a byte, 1,024 bytes in a KB (kilobyte), 1,024KB in a MB (megabyte), and 1,024MB in a GB (gigabyte). If you record tracks at 192Kbps, divide that number by eight to get 24KBps. There are 60 seconds in a minute, so that means your audio requires about 1,440KB (1.41MB) of storage per minute or about 84.5MB per hour. Therefore, each gigabyte of memory will hold about 12 hours of 192Kbps audio.

2 Type of memory.

Hard drives offer relatively high storage capacities at a relatively low prices. They have a lot of moving parts, though, that tend to break if you drop the devices, which often ruins the player beyond repair. Flash memory (also called solid-state memory) is more expensive per megabyte and gigabyte than hard drives, but because the memory uses no moving parts, it is more durable. Devices that use flash memory are terrific for running and exercising or other activities where you may shake or drop your player.

3 File format support.

Just as digital photos and movies use a variety of file formats, so do digital audio files. You'll see MP3, AAC (Advanced Audio Coding), WMA (Windows Media Audio), and FLAC (Free Lossless Audio Codec), to name a few. If you have already converted or downloaded a large amount of music in a particular format, make sure the player you want can handle it. If not, you can tailor your conversions and downloads to match the capabilities of the device.

4 File downloads.

Due to DRM (digital rights management) schemes and other factors, to download most tracks from Apple's iTunes Store (www.itunes.com), you'll need an iPod. However, Apple offers a select number of DRM-free tracks that'll work with any MP3 player. Subscription-based services, such as Napster To Go (www.napster.com), let you download unlimited amounts of music, but they're only compatible with certain makes and models. On the other hand, Amazon's (www.amazon.com) music store won't keep you guessing about what music will play on your MP3 player; its entire music catalogue is DRM-free.

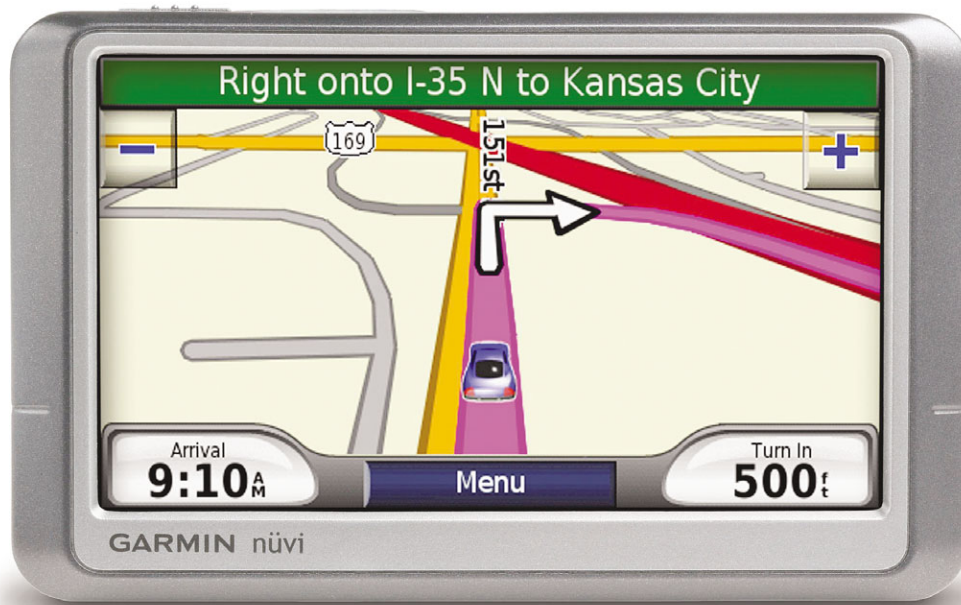
5 Battery life.

Measures of battery life are performed in a lab and, as a consequence, don't always match real-world performance. First, ask the salespeople if they have any experience with the battery life of a product you are considering. Then, be sure to ask how long the batteries should last if you listen at a reasonable volume level (loud music consumes more electricity because the headphones require more power). Finally, you might also look for power-cutting options, such as the ability to turn off the screen's backlight and audio normalization (which tones down loud music).



GPS

It's A Whole Nü Way To Travel



Garmin nüvi® 260W

MSRP: \$428.56

SKU: 8673697

www.garmin.com

Quick Overview

The Garmin nüvi 260W doesn't fail to impress with its widescreen navigator screen and ability to speak street names. With a simple-to-use interface and a sleek, ultra-slim design, the nüvi 260W will get you where you need to be, all within a few screen taps.

Perfect For

The Garmin nüvi 260W is perfect for those who want a GPS equipped with outstanding features for an affordable price. It also works for anyone with limited space, as its slim design can fit comfortably in a pocket or purse.

Outstanding Benefits

- Sleek, ultra-slim design
- Widescreen, 4.3-inch color touchscreen display with backlight
- Easy-to-use on-screen commands
- Choose from a 3D mapping perspective or 2D overhead view
- Turn-by-turn directions with voice guidance
- JPEG picture viewer, world travel clock, currency and measurement converter, plus more

Coollest Feature

Ready to go right out of the box, this GPS is preloaded with map data and **features over 6 million POIs (points of interest)**, including hotels, restaurants, gas stations, ATMs, and attractions. And, you can add your own customized POIs.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



GPS

Beyond Navigation



Garmin nüvi 780

MSRP: \$857.13

SKU: 8674071

www.garmin.com

Quick Overview

Go wide and get MSN Direct® with the Garmin nüvi 780. This navigator has it all—advanced navigation features, a widescreen display, preloaded maps, an FM transmitter, and hands-free calling—plus, real-time local weather, traffic, movie times, stock information, gas prices, and news and local events. Like the rest of the wide nüvi 700 Series, it includes premium navigation capabilities, such as route planning and a handy locator.

Perfect For

The Garmin nüvi 780 is for the person who wants to make the most of his or her journey.

Outstanding Benefits

- Includes MSN Direct receiver with next-generation features: traffic updates, weather, gas prices, enhanced movie listings, stock info, news, and local events (free three-month trial subscription)
- Bluetooth wireless technology with a built-in microphone and speaker for hands-free calling.
- Easy-to-use touchscreen interface
- High-sensitivity GPS receiver for improved performance and reception
- Built-in music player, audio book player, currency converter, and more

Coollest Feature

MSN Direct now offers local information, from what times and ticket prices are to a Major League Baseball game to events such as an art fair or band appearing at a local club—and it can take you there, too.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



GPS

Go Confidently



TomTom ONE XL•S

MSRP: \$349.95

SKU: 8512031

www.tomtom.com

Quick Overview

Expand your horizons with the TomTom ONE XL•S. The distinctive design combines an extra-wide 4.3-inch touchscreen with text-to-speech technology for spoken street and place names. The Help Me! menu provides added safety features which allow you to easily access local emergency providers. It's traffic-ready so you can always take the smartest route.

Perfect For

The driver looking for easy to use A to B navigation including spoken street and place names and an extra-wide touchscreen.

Outstanding Benefits

- Switch on and go right out of the box
- Portable, pocket-sized device
- Award-winning software
- Preloaded maps of U.S. and Canada
- Text-to-speech: spoken street and place names
- Millions of points of interest
- No activation. No monthly fees

Coollest Feature

TomTom Map Share: You'll always have access to the world's most up-to-date maps with TomTom Map Share technology. You can instantly modify street names, street direction and points of interest on your own map. Easily share and download other users' verified changes.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com



GPS

The Smart Choice In Personal Navigation



TomTom ONE XL

MSRP: \$299.95

SKU: 8355282

www.tomtom.com

Quick Overview

Expand your horizons with the new TomTom ONE XL. The distinctive design combines an extra-wide 4.3-inch touchscreen and the power of a GPS in a slim, lightweight device. Easily taken from car to car, just switch the unit on and use it right out of the box. It only takes a few taps on the crystal-clear screen and the ONE XL does the rest with a 3D view and spoken turn-by-turn instructions. With this GPS, you'll find your way, worry-free.

Perfect For

The traveler who wants easy and reliable directions to their destination, wherever it may be.

Outstanding Benefits

- Switch on and go right out of the box
- Portable, pocket-sized device
- Award-winning software
- Preloaded maps of U.S. and Canada
- Turn-by-turn spoken directions
- Millions of points of interest
- No activation. No monthly fees

Coollest Feature

The Help Me! menu provides **added safety features** which allow you to easily access local emergency providers. The Where Am I feature provides your pinpoint location so you can give it to emergency providers.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

SanDisk®

MP3 Player

The Tiny Wearable MP3 Player With BIG Sound



SanDisk®
Sansa Clip® 2GB

MSRP: \$59.99

SKU: 8553825 (red)

www.sandisk.com

Quick Overview

Clip it to your jeans. Clip it to your jacket. Clip it anywhere you want. The 2GB Sansa Clip boasts incredible sound for its tiny size, but limiting its size doesn't limit its features. This music player includes a screen so that you can sort through music, FM radio stations, and audio books with ease. It also includes a built-in microphone.

Perfect For

The Sansa Clip is a solid player that's easy to use; it's perfect for anyone who wants a simple and fulfilling music listening experience.

Outstanding Benefits

- An easy-to-use mobile music experience—just clip it on and go
- Plays MP3, protected and unprotected WMA, and audio book file formats
- Tiny and lightweight, so it won't get in the way
- Bright OLED screen for easy viewing
- Voice recording with built-in microphone
- FM radio with 40 preset channels
- High-speed USB 2.0 interface for ultra-fast transfer speeds

Coollest Feature

Tremendous sound quality—one of the best-sounding MP3 players on the market.

Available at select Best Buy™ stores and www.bestbuy.com

FirstGlimpse

Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?

Pods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players available at Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com).

		Memory type	Capacities	Songs	Video; FM tuner capabilities	Colors	Battery life
What It Means		Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has (on models available at Best Buy)	Based on 4-minute songs at 128Kbps, the number a player can hold	Some MP3 players can play video or let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
	Apple iPod classic MSRP: \$249; \$349 SKU 8500035	Hard drive	80GB; 160GB	20,000; 40,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black, silver	30 hours; 40 hours
	Apple iPod nano MSRP: \$149; \$199 SKU 8500847	Flash	4GB; 8GB	1,000; 2,000 (AAC)	Only video	Silver (4GB); Black, silver, red, blue, green	24 hours
	Apple iPod touch MSRP: \$299; \$399; \$499 SKU 8500393	Flash	8GB; 16GB; 32GB	1,750; 3,500; 7,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black	22 hours
	Microsoft Zune 80GB MSRP: \$249.99 SKU 8595978	Hard drive	80GB	20,000	Both	Black	30 hours
	Insignia Pilot MSRP: \$129.99; \$159.99 SKU 8452863	Flash	4GB; 8GB	N/A	Both	Black	25 hours
	Samsung P2 MSRP: \$199.99; \$249.99 SKU 8571379	Flash	4GB; 8GB	N/A	Both	Black, burgundy	30 hours
	SanDisk Sansa View MSRP: \$149.99; \$199.99 SKU 8553424	Flash	8GB; 16GB	2,000; 4,000	Both	Black	35 hours
	SanDisk Sansa Clip MSRP: \$59.99 SKU 8553825	Flash	2GB	1,000 (WMA)	Only an FM tuner	Black, red, pink, blue	64 hours (WMA)

See p. 77

Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS device, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

		Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to- speech capability	Battery life	WAAS	Built-in Bluetooth	Included charging adapters
What It Means		The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth	Lets the unit call out specific street names	How long the battery lasts	A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy	Lets you communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
	Magellan Maestro 4040 MSRP: \$449.99 SKU 8308636	4.3 inches; 3.75x5x0.88 inches	Yes	Up to 3 hours	Yes	Yes	AC adapter, DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 780 MSRP: \$799.99 SKU 8674071	3.8 inches; 2.25x4.8x0.8 inches	No	Up to 5 hours	No	Yes	DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 260W MSRP: \$428.56 SKU 8673697	4.3 inches; 4.8x2.9x0.8 inches	No	Up to 5 hours	No	No	DC adapter
	TomTom ONE XL-S MSRP: \$349.95 SKU 8512031	4.3 inches; 3.4x4.7x1.2 inches	Yes	Up to 2 hours	No	No	DC adapter
	TomTom ONE XL MSRP: \$299.95 SKU 8355282	4.3 inches; 3.4x4.7x1.2 inches	No	Up to 2 hours	No	Yes	AC adapter, DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 680 MSRP: \$857.13 SKU 8230746	4.3 inches; 2.9x4.9x0.9 inches	Yes	Up to 7 hours	Yes	Yes	AC adapter, DC adapter
	Mio DigiWalker C720t MSRP: \$599.95 SKU 8539478	3.5 inches; 3.2x5x0.8 inches	Yes	Up to 4.5 hours	N/A	Yes	AC adapter, DC adapter
	Harman Kardon GPS-810 MSRP: \$599.99 SKU 8540518	4.3 inches; 2.4x5x.75 inches	Yes	Up to 4 hours	No	Yes	AC adapter, DC adapter

exit

Refresh & Renew

We're only four months into the new year, and by this time, many of us have let our resolution to improve our health fall by the wayside. To get back on track, a little bit of motivation should do the trick, and we know at *First Glimpse* how helpful, fun, and refreshing it can be to include a shiny, new CE gadget in your daily health routine. Consider these products available from Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com) to help continue your journey towards a healthier you.



HoMedics Health Station Body Fat Analyzer and Scale
\$59.99

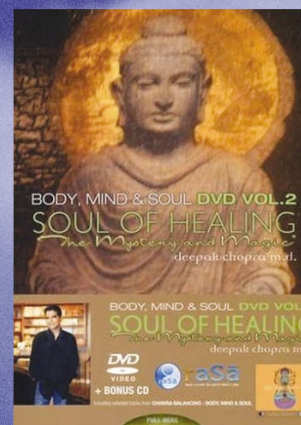
Walkvest Kit with DVD
\$49.98



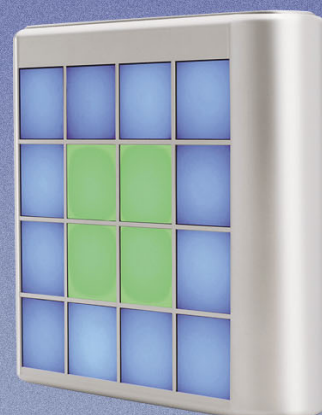
Timex IRONMAN iControl Watch for Select Apple iPod Models
\$124.99



Cuisinart SmartPower 7-Speed Duet Blender/Food Processor
\$89.99



Body, Mind & Soul, Vol. 2: Soul of Healing (CD and DVD)
\$24.98



HoMedics Soothing Light Therapy Color Cube
\$49.99

••••• **WATCH YOUR LIVING ROOM
TV THROUGH THE INTERNET.**

But remember, you're not in your living room.



The Slingbox lets you watch and control your living room TV, live through the Internet, on your laptop or cell phone. Experience incredible video quality with **NO MONTHLY FEES**. Visit slingbox.com to learn more.

slingbox™



FASCINATION COMES STANDARD

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor E8500 with two processing cores, 1,333MHz system bus, 6MB L2 cache, and 3.13GHz processor speed per core
- 500GB Serial ATA hard drive
- 3GB of PC6400 DDR2 memory, expandable to 4GB
- DVD±RW/CD-RW drive with double-layer support and LightScribe
- ATI Radeon X3850 graphics card
- High-definition surround sound with 5.1-channel support
- Two FireWire interfaces and eight USB 2.0 ports with both front and rear access for fast and easy data transfers

PERFECT FOR HIGH-END GAMING, the Velocity Micro ProMagix E2055 Desktop offers a next-generation Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor E8500, powerful 256MB ATI Radeon X3850 graphics card, and 3GB of RAM to provide blazing speed and immersive graphics. Built with nothing but premium performance components, the stylish, brushed aluminum desktop functions perfectly as a multimedia system. With a 500GB hard drive for all of your storage needs, a built-in digital media reader to easily retrieve your photo and video files, and a double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW drive with LightScribe, this is definitely a take-no-prisoners PC.



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